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HISTORY
OF
SEWARD COUNTY,
NEBRASKA.

TOGETHER WITH
A CHAPTER OF REMINISCENSES OF THE EARLY SETTLEMENT
OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

BY
W. W. COX,
AUTHOR OF PAPERS ON LABOR AND CAPITAL, AND "ADDRESSES TO YOUNG PEOPLE."

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DEDICATION.

To the young people of Nebraska, and especially those of Seward county, the children of the pioneers, is this little book humbly dedicated by their friend and well-wisher,

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

The author would ask the reader to not be unreasonably critical. All historical works are imperfect and subject to criticism, and why should this be an exception? We have done the best we could with the material at hand. Many incidents herein related are obtained from people now living, and are generally correctly related, but the memories of men are sometimes faulty, and people are frequently led to see matters and things from different standpoints.

The best authorities frequently conflict, and many matters of importance were never recorded, and we are left dependent on the memory of men for matters that occurred twenty or more years ago. We have searched diligently and patiently, and have given you the result of our efforts.

We would not say that we are entirely satisfied, but hope that we have measurably succeeded in establishing many landmarks for the future historian, and conveyed an intelligent idea of the early settlement and the more important events of our history.

We cheerfully acknowledge our obligations to the friends that have so kindly aided us in our work, for the many valuable historic letters and papers furnished us; to Hon. C. H. Gere, for his sketch of Lancaster county; and also to the editors of the various newspapers for the use of their files, and the county and state officers for courtesies shown; and last, but not least, the great host of friends that have met us with words of encouragement and liberal patronage.

CHAPTER I.

FIRST VISIT TO LANCASTER COUNTY—SETTLEMENT—SALT BASINS—MAKING SALT—COMERS AND GOERS—IMPROVEMENT—FOURTH OF JULY, 1862—ELDER YOUNG AND PARTY—FOUNDING LANCASTER—COUNTY-SEAT FIGHT—CLAY COUNTY DESPOILED—INDIAN SCARES—FIRST DISTRICT COURT—SCENES AND INCIDENTS IN JUSTICE COURTS—GROWTH AND PROGRESS—REMOVAL TO SEWARD COUNTY.

In the last days of June, 1861, we chanced to meet Wm. T. Donovan on the streets of Nebraska City, and upon our learning that he lived on Salt creek, and in the neighborhood of the wonderful salt basins, we speedily arranged to accompany him, that we might see for ourself the country and the basins of which we had heard so much.

If we remember correctly, after passing the old Majors farm, four miles out, we passed over an unbroken wilderness, save Wilson's ranch at Wilson creek, until we reached McKee's ranch on the Nemaha, where widow McKee and her sons lived. James Iler also lived near the same point. This was twenty miles out and near the present town of Syracuse. The next improvement was that of John Roberts, on the Nemaha, near the present sight of Palmyra, and five miles further to the west, lived a Mr. Meecham, a weak-kneed Mormon who had fallen out by the way. These were all the people that we saw on that trip until we reached Salt creek. After enjoying the hospitalities of our friend's home for the night, a somewhat novel mode of conveyance was improvised for our trip to the basin. A tongue was fastened to the hind axle of a wagon, and a pair of springs was made of short ash sticks with a board across the ends of the sticks for a seat, and our carriage was complete, and Buck and Bright served for motive power. On the second day of July, 1861, we followed a dim track down—to Lincoln?—no; to Lancaster?—no—but down Salt creek (we hardly ever go up Salt creek), to the mouth of Oak creek, where we forded the stream. There was at that time a magnificent grove of honey locust timber on the west side of

Salt creek, and just south of Oak creek; and a little to the south of the foot of O street, the large bend of the creek, there were perhaps a hundred majestic elms and cottonwoods, with here and there a hackberry and honey locust. Those lovely groves would now, if they could have remained in their natural grandeur and beauty as we saw them, be of priceless value to the city for a park. Joseph, the elder son of Wm. T. Donovan, was our teamster and guide. The big flies that infested the low bottoms were a great help as persuaders of our oxen, and at times our ride was exciting in the extreme, as the oxen would dart first to the right, then to the left, to get the benefit of a brush to rid themselves of flies.

It brings peculiar thoughts to mind as we look around us now and consider the changes that twenty-six years have wrought.

One dim track only crossed the site of the future city from east to west, that had been made by hunters and salt pilgrims, and the one already mentioned running up and down the creek. As we viewed the land upon which now stands this great busy city, we had the exciting pleasure of seeing for the first time a large drove of the beautiful antelope, cantering across the prairie about where the government square is. We forded Salt creek, just by the junction of Oak creek, and what a struggle we had in making our way through the tall sunflowers between the ford and the basin. There was something enchanting about the scene that met our eyes. The fresh breeze sweeping over the salt basins reminded us of the morning breezes at the ocean beach. The basin was as smooth as glass, and resembled a slab of highly polished, clouded marble.

The wrecks of some old salt furnaces and two deserted cabins were the only sign of civilization. All was wild and solitary, but our soul was filled with rapturous delight. The geese, brant, and pelicans had undisputed sway, and the air was filled with their shrill notes.

The nearest human habitation to either the basin or the present city, was that of W. T. Donovan, on the Cardwell place on Salt creek, about five miles up the creek or south of the ford. Joel Mason lived a mile farther up. Richard Wallingford lived at his present home. A. J. Wallingford also lived just across the creek. John Cadman lived just across the county line, as the counties were first constituted, in old Clay county, and where the village of Saltillo now stands. Dr. Maxwell lived in that neighborhood; also Festus Reed; and above Roca, J. L. Davison and the Pray family had located.

Wm. Shirley, on Stevens creek, was the nearest settler to the eastward. Charles Retslef and John Wedencamp, also, Judge J. D. Maine, held the fort a little farther up the creek, and Aaron Wood was located near the head of Stevens creek. John and Louis Loder lived down Salt creek near Waverly; also Michael Shea and James Moran. To the westward it was a complete wilderness.

In company with Darwin Peckham (now of Lincoln) we commenced making salt on the 20th of August, 1861. We pre-empted one of the log cabins and "bached" it during the fall. Salt was very scarce during war times, and was high in price, and of a necessity great numbers of people came to scrape salt. They came from all the settled portions of the territory, from Kansas, Missouri, and as far east as central Iowa. At the time of the second visit we found the roads well broken by pilgrims in search of salt. Going for salt in those days was like going fishing—it was all in luck. If the weather were perfectly dry, they could get plenty of it, for it could be scraped up by the wagon load, but three minutes' rain would end the game. We have seen a drove of men that came a full hundred miles arrive just in time to see a little rain clear all the salt off the basin in a moment, and they left to hold an empty sack. We found a goodly number there when we arrived, and they were holding the empty sack, for it had just rained and the basin was as black as ink. We remember Milton Langdon as one of the disconsolate pilgrims. The next morning all except our party pulled out, and "we were monarchs of all we surveyed."

We immediately built a small furnace, made a sheet-iron salt pan, and began boiling salt, and by the time the next drove of pilgrims came we had salt to sell or trade them. Many farmers would bring their sorghum pans to make their own salt, and when they would get enough, or tired, we would trade salt for their pans and all their spare provisions. When the weather was dry many would scrape more than they could haul home, and we would trade for their scrapings at twenty-five cents per hundred and pay in boiled salt at two dollars per hundred. In dry times we would accumulate a mountain of scraped salt, and as soon as the first rain came our scrapings would be worth from fifty cents to one dollar per hundred. Pilgrims would grab for it. They brought all manner of provisions to trade for salt—meat, flour, chickens, butter, fruit, potatoes, eggs;

and others were willing to go to the groves and cut and haul wood and trade us; others would haul up a large pile of wood and then rent our furnaces for the night, and would work all night, and thus get a supply. So we had salt to sell, scrapings to sell, furnaces to rent, and, generally, provisions to sell. One man we remember brought a fine suit of clothes and traded us for salt. A party brought two four-horse wagon loads, 5,000 pounds, of flour from Winterset, Iowa, and we made him an even exchange of 5,000 pounds of salt for it. It was a lively time, for hundreds were coming and going continually during the fall.

We remember several distinguished visitors of that fall, among whom were Hon. O. P. Mason and Hon. J. Sterling Morton. We treated them to slap-jacks of our own make, which the judge seemed to relish, but our friend Morton didn't seem to appreciate our cooking; just why has always been a mystery. Hon. P. W. Hitchcock, afterwards U. S. senator, and his excellency, Gov. Saunders (he was then our governor), also made us a visit. They were not repairing fences, but quite likely they were examining J. Sterling Morton's fence around the saline land. Many of lesser note visited us during the fall.

Late in the fall we moved our family to Salt creek, and wintered in one apartment of the log cabin that W. T. Donovan occupied, and as the salt business always quits when winter begins, we put in the time as best we could, chasing rabbits, etc. Uncle Dick Wallingford, learning that we had graduated at the carpenter's bench, besought us to build him a house. We suppose we have the honor of building for Uncle Dick the first frame building in Lancaster county, in the winter of '61 and '62. We made the doors of black walnut lumber that was about as hard as glass. We also call to mind the struggle we had one night the following summer in making a coffin for Grandmother Wallingford out of that hard lumber.

We took up our abode at the basin with the wife and two children on the first day of May, 1862. That same day a county convention was held at the basin, and nearly every man in the county was there, but we remember none of the proceedings, as we were occupied in setting our house in order. Two or three days later, Milton Langdon arrived with his family, and took up their abode just west of the B. & M. bridge, north of Oak creek. The season of 1862 was

exceedingly prosperous. Great numbers of people came and went every day. Numerous other furnaces were started, and the salt works presented quite the appearance of business.

Here we must beg indulgence, while we relate a little story. In the winter of '62 and '63, there was an old fellow by the name of Ben Vanthusen, camping and boiling salt, and there was an Indian camp a little distance away, and the Indians had been bothering Ben until he had become impatient with them. A young stalwart brave thought to play a trick on him, and approached him with the usual aborigine's salutation, "How!" and at the same time offered Ben a finely polished ramrod, which he reached out to take, when Mr. Indian struck him a violent blow with the rod across the knuckles. Ben couldn't stand that, and quickly as thought returned the compliment with his fist, propelled by his stalwart arm; the blow took effect just under the ear of the young brave, and he reeled backward and sat down in a pan of boiling salt water. A sharp shriek, and Mr. Indian jumped for life, and ran wildly into the swamp hallooing all sorts of bloody murder in the Indian tongue. Other braves went to his relief, and carried him to camp. He was thoroughly cooked and well salted. The little settlement soon became alarmed, fearing that the Indians would be enraged and seek vengeance. A hurried consultation was had, and the camp was visited to learn, if possible, the temper of the red-skins. We found the man almost dead, and while he was writhing in agony, the other Indians were making all sorts of fun of him, calling him squaw man, etc., and pointing their fingers at him; and finally Ben Vanthusen appeared on the scene, and they began at once lionizing him, as if to further tantalize the poor unfortunate. They finally made a litter of a buffalo robe and carried him away with them, while in a dying condition.

On the morning of the Fourth of July, wife suggested that we celebrate by gathering a lot of gooseberries, of which there were great quantities. Just as we had filled our buckets, we heard someone hallooing, and as we emerged from the brush, who should we see but Elder Young and party, consisting of Rev. Peter Schamp, Dr. McKesson, Mr. Warnes, Luke Lavender, and Jacob Dawson. They were in search of a suitable location for a colony. They were patriotic, and had not forgotten the flag. Dinner was quickly provided and disposed of, the neighbors called in, and we had a celebra-

tion that was a feast to the soul. As the dear old elder talked to us of our blessed flag, and how it had been trailed in the dust by recreant hands, and the mighty struggle that was going on to maintain its supremacy, how our hearts swelled with emotion as we realized that our country and our all was at the moment trembling in the balance. This was probably the first time our national flag ever kissed the breezes of Lancaster county, and it was an occasion long to be remembered by all the participants.

Some, we know not how many, of that little group have gone to their long home. Uncle Jacob Dawson lived just long enough to see the foundations of Lincoln well laid, and was called away. Our dear old friend, Elder Young, lived to see the city of his founding great and strong, and marching forward to greater achievements, and "he was gathered to his fathers full of years and full of honors."

In the second week in July, and after making a thorough examination of the surrounding country, the party made settlement on the land where Lincoln now stands, and dedicated a portion of section twenty-two for a town site, and christened it "Lancaster."

Lancaster did not grow as more modern towns do. A few settlers began to arrive, and settled on the beautiful lands in the vicinity, but not many cared to try their hands at building a city just then. Town building was a slow process in those days so far inland.

It must be remembered that the bill providing for the Union Pacific railroad had passed but the previous winter, and the eastern terminus had not been fixed by the president. Our nearest railroad was at St. Joseph, Mo., and Ottumwa, Iowa. And further it was yet very questionable as to whether our upland prairie was of any value for agricultural purposes. The farms were all yet confined to the creek bottoms. Prairie fires would sweep the prairies just as soon as the grass was dry in the fall and leave the roots exposed to the scorching rays of the autumn sun and then to the frosts of winter. The snow would gather into huge drifts, there being nothing to hold it except the ravines. This resulted in very short grass crops on the upland, and frequently there was scarcely grass enough to hide a garter snake in midsummer. People saw the fact that the prairie produced but little grass, but were slow to discover the causes, and were ready to condemn the land as worthless for cultivation. Some are led to believe that great changes have taken place in the general

character of the soil, as well as in the climate. We have frequently been asked if this land was not all covered with buffalo grass. To this question we answer most emphatically, no. It might have been at some remote period, but never since white men have known it. Many are of the opinion that it scarcely ever rained in those early days. That is certainly a mistake. The summer of 1860 produced scarcely any rain (we well remember the year of the Kansas famine; we resided at Nebraska City at the time), and to help matters along there were sixteen days and nights of continuous hot south wind. It was almost insufferably hot, so stifling it was that people could not bear to sit in the wind, even late in the evenings, but would be compelled to seek a wind-brake. Except that memorable year, rains were just as plentiful and as well distributed through the growing seasons in those years as now, and vegetation, where it had a fair show, made the same luxuriant growth. But we do not wonder that the overland immigrant who passed through this country in the early spring or late in the fall pronounced this a desert land, for as far as the eye could reach, in all directions, nothing could be seen but black prairie. Most dreary indeed was the spectacle. There being nothing to retain the moisture, and the sun bearing down on the defenceless head, and the mirage playing in the distance like some specter, it did not seem that it ever could be a fit abode for civilized man. It took men and women of strong nerve and great faith to attempt to build a home in this wilderness then, but there were some brave souls that were equal to the hour, and such were the men who founded Lancaster.

The story of the founding of the embryo city, and the struggle over the location of the county-seat, is an interesting theme. The settlement at Yankee Hill (where the insane hospital now stands), under the leadership of John Cadman and Wm. Fields, made an interesting and energetic fight for the prize. These men looked with jealousy upon the Lancaster colony. Our friend Cadman was wide-awake, and with a fertile brain was ready for almost any emergency. It will be remembered that the boundaries of the county were materially changed in the winter of 1862-63. Friend Cadman secured the election to the legislature from old Clay county, John S. Gregory was by some trick of legerdemain elected to represent Lancaster, and Hon. H. W. Parker was sent from Gage. The trio each had an axe

to grind. Parker wanted to make the county-seat secure for Beatrice, and Cadman wanted to spoil Elder Young's little game and make a new town and clothe it with the honors of the county-seat. So they arranged and carried through the scheme to eliminate Clay county from the map of Nebraska, and give to Gage the south twelve miles, and the north twelve miles to Lancaster, in the interest of Cadman and his friends. Thus it came that Gage and Lancaster are each thirty-six miles long, and that Clay county was buried out of sight, to be resurrected at a later day farther to the west. We have never been able to learn just what interest our friend Gregory was to have, but suppose he was to be endorsed for the post office at the basin at a salary of one dollar per month, and also to have his name perpetuated by renaming the great salt basin "Gregory Basin," both of which he secured; but the honors of his office and the name were very much like a soap bubble—they got away from him in a very short time. Cadman and his friends lost no time in fixing upon a point for their new town at Yankee Hill, and then came the tug of war. About this time what was known as the steam wagon road was located from Nebraska City to the west, and the crossing of Salt creek fixed at Yankee Hill. An appropriation of five hundred dollars was secured by the legislature for a bridge on Salt creek in Lancaster county, to be located by territorial commissioners. When these gentlemen came to fix the location of the bridge, the Lancaster party, headed by Elder Young, and the Yankee Hill folks, led by Cadman, each made an earnest showing why they should have the bridge, and we take it for granted that each succeeded in convincing the commissioners that their claim was the best, for they divided the money between the two points, and thus, with the aid of private help, two good bridges were secured.

Each place made slow progress; a little store and a blacksmith shop were secured by each. Lancaster had the help of the salt interest to assist it, while its rival had the freight road. Each had energetic men as leaders, and they were equally well situated, but Lancaster had the sympathy of the greater number of the people of the county. Friend Cadman had roused the ire of all his old neighbors on the head of Salt creek. They were very sore over having all their pleasant dreams of a county-seat at Olathe suddenly vanish, and their county disappear, or torn in two and swallowed by her greedy

sisters. When the county-seat problem came before the people for settlement, the Lancaster folks had a walk-away, and secured a grand triumph at the polls.

This county-seat election occurred in the summer of 1864, and was held at the house of the writer, just south of the great basin.

Notwithstanding his defeat in his pet project of founding a county-seat, Cadman secured a return to the legislature for several terms and had an honorable part in moulding the destiny of the county, in helping to secure the capital removal bill, and securing the location of it within her borders; and while Elder J. M. Young may justly be honored as the founder of Lincoln, to John Cadman belongs the honor of doing splendid work in securing a grand triumph in removing the capital and securing the principal benefits to his county; and while he did not realize the full fruition of his hopes in getting it at Yankee Hill, we are glad to know that he has been duly rewarded, and that in his green old age he is blessed with plenty of this world's goods, and friends innumerable to brighten his pathway. Long live Hon. John Cadman!

In the early summer of 1862, we had the pleasure of helping to raise a log house for Charles Calkins, on Middle creek, on what was afterwards known as the Horton farm, and about five miles west of the city. This was the first log cabin between the basin and the Grand Island settlement.

In the beautiful month of June our good wife made a visit to Nebraska City, and left us alone "with our glory" for a little season. One afternoon a vast throng of Omahas camped at the head of the basin, but we thought nothing of it as it was a common thing to see great numbers of Indians on their way to their summer hunting grounds on the Republican river. John Chambers' family lived a little way from our cabin. We went to bed as usual that night, with our bright saber under our pillow, and a rifle standing within easy reach. Near midnight we heard a (not very) "gentle tapping, as of some one rapping at our cabin door." "What's the matter?" we cried. "Matter enough," says poor trembling John, his wife clinging to him like grim death, and crazed with fear; "the Indians are upon us. For God's sake what shall we do?" Whether we dressed or not, you may guess. We forgot that we ever had a saber or a gun. When we awoke our ears were greeted with the most un-

earthly sounds, as if ten thousand devils were turned loose. We all run, as most folks do when badly scared, and we hid as best we could among the hills and awaited the coming of events, which we expected every minute. The pandemonium continued, but came no nearer. We waited patiently for the enemy, but they did not come. We were disappointed. The Indians were expecting to meet their mortal foes (the Sioux) on their hunting grounds, and were having a war dance. "Only this, and nothing more."

Salt creek and its principal tributary, Oak creek, were wonderfully well supplied with fish. Black suckers and buffalo were the leading varieties. The settlers had plenty of sport and much profit in fishing. We all had plenty of fish. Great numbers were caught that would weigh ten to fifteen pounds, and we have seen them that tipped the beam at thirty-five pounds.

Elk and antelope were plentiful, and the nimrods of that day had great and exciting sport in the chase. Some of the settlers spent a great portion of their time roaming the prairies in search of game. Many of them never came home without a supply of meat. If elk could not be found or captured, some luckless freighter's steer had to suffer the ordeal of being converted into elk meat. Many a steer has undergone the change in short order, and Mr. Steer's only safety was in staying close to camp. The basin was a great place for wild water fowls to congregate. Geese, brant, swan, ducks, and pelicans were there by the thousands, and it was the hunter's paradise. Wild fruits, such as grapes, plums, gooseberries, and elderberries, were abundant along the streams, and were gathered by the bushel.

As the Union armies regained the rebel strongholds of Missouri, great numbers of rebels found it convenient to find other quarters, and many of them seemed to have the idea that salt would save their bacon, consequently hordes of them would congregate at the basins, and frequently they would show their rebellious spirit in acts and words that it was very unpleasant for Union men to endure. At one time they became so insolent and threatening that the Union men of the valley thought it necessary to organize for self-defense. Our Missouri friends came to the wise conclusion that "discretion was the better part of valor," so nothing very serious occurred.

Elder Young preached the first sermon of the locality at our house,

on the Sabbath following the 4th of July, 1862, to a fair-sized congregation. A Sabbath-school was organized very soon afterwards, and was of great value to the youth of the little community. This was the first Sunday-school between the Missouri river and the mountains. Religious services were held quite frequently under the leadership of Elder Young, Rev. Dr. McKesson, and Rev. Peter Schamp, and other ministers that chanced to stray so far into the wilderness.

As a general rule the settlers enjoyed themselves very well, and were reasonably prosperous, but it was not always so. Sometimes winter storms would shut us off from communication with the world at large, and provisions would get short, and we would be driven to desperate straits. We have known families to live on boiled corn or wheat for a week at a time with no seasoning but salt. The winter of 1863-64 was a most desperate one. The cold was extreme. The last day of December, 1863, was a memorable day for the intensity of the cold. We had no thermometer except our own blood, and that told us that it was the most bitterly cold of any day of our life. We afterwards learned that at Burlington, Iowa, the thermometer indicated thirty degrees below zero.

That winter was one of much suffering. Salt had declined materially in price, and the demand had fallen off; while wood for boiling it had become scarce, and the weather was so severe that it seemed as if all things conspired against the people, and for a time the whole settlement was on the verge of starvation. The spring of 1864 found the settlement in rather a dilapidated and impoverished condition, but hope soon revived. Immigrants began to arrive in goodly numbers and began opening up farms, and that gave new life and hope to all. Settlements began to extend westward, and all the people began to have more faith in Nebraska. It may be well here to relate a common saying of those days, just to show how absurd the expressed views of many people were in regard to this country:

If an incoming immigrant talked of going over to the Blue valley to look for a location, he was told at once that it was of no use to look at that country, for it never rains west of Salt creek. That fool notion had become so thoroughly embedded in the minds of many of the early settlers that we expect some of them firmly believe it to this day.

It has been claimed that F. Morton Donovan was the first white child born in this locality, but this locality was rather large, for the fact is he was born on Stevens creek, ten miles distant. The first white child born at the basin, or in the immediate vicinity of the present city, was a son born to Joseph Chambers in the winter of 1862-63. He died in infancy. Our son, Elmer Ellsworth Cox, was born March 3, 1863, and was the first white child born in the immediate vicinity who is now living.

There were some exciting and almost ludicrous scenes in the courts at the basins. Milton Langdon and J. S. Gregory were the two prominent attorneys, and in all matters of a judicial nature they were arrayed against each other. They were both of them keen and tricky, ever on the alert to catch the enemy napping, and they had some high old times. Occasionally a case would arise that tried the mettle of the court, attorneys, and officers. A rough customer, who it was said had graduated in the rebel army, put in an appearance, and made some violent threats, in which he promised to kill some citizen. An information was filed, and a warrant was issued and placed in the hands of the sheriff. A crowd gathered at the court-room, and it soon became known that the culprit refused to surrender to the sheriff. All became excited, and while the court was giving some directions to the citizens about assisting the sheriff, the fellow came stalking into the court-room, carrying his rifle in a position for immediate use. The sheriff followed at a convenient distance of probably ten rods. The court invited the man to take a seat, which was promptly declined, but he took a careful survey of the court and all the surroundings, and with the rifle ready cocked and finger on the trigger, he began a retreat, and all hands seemed ready to stand out of his way. The justice remarked to the sheriff and posse, "You will be justified in taking that man, if you have to kill him to do it," but they didn't take him; he backed off with drawn weapon, and bid defiance, and no one was willing to take the risk of his capture. He was bent on vengeance, and had no intention of leaving until he had wreaked it on somebody. He became angry at the justice for saying take him dead or alive, and during the next morning, while his honor was busy at his salt furnace, he happened to observe the sneaking scoundrel creeping up a small ravine in the rear, with a view of getting a sure shot at him, but finding that his victim had

observed him, he started off at a rapid pace across the basin. His honor quickly halted him. He instantly cocked his rifle, but sternly and most emphatically his honor commanded a truce, and marched straight up to the fellow, who curled down like a whipped cur, received a court blessing in the open air, and then took his final departure to parts unknown. Had it not been for a good degree of firmness on that occasion, it is quite probable that some other writer would have had the honors of this occasion, instead of us.

On the morning of August 20, 1862, there was a heavy frost, which killed all the corn on the lowlands throughout Nebraska.

During the spring of 1863, J. S. Gregory built the first frame house in the vicinity of the basin, and made quite extensive improvements. Mr. Eaton, of Plattsmouth, an uncle of our friend Gregory, became quite well acquainted with him during these years, and their fraternal relations are spread upon the court records of Lancaster county for many years.

Settlements increased rapidly during the spring and early summer of 1864, but took a serious set-back later in the season, on account of the Indian troubles, so that the number wintering here in the winter of 1864-65 was hardly greater than in the winter previous.

The first term of the district court was held on the 8th day of November, 1864 (the day Lincoln was elected to the second term), in Jacob Dawson's double log cabin, and was presided over by his honor, Judge Elmer S. Dundy, with the same dignity as is manifest in these days in the great government court-house. Members of the bar present were Hon. T. M. Marquett and Judge Pottenger, of Plattsmouth. Uncle Jake's cabin stood just where the Commercial block now stands. Uncle Jake was put to straits to properly entertain the judge and the attorneys. We remember that he came over and borrowed all the store coffee at the basin. As if to add to the pleasures of the occasion, we enjoyed a regular blizzard of whirling, drifting snow.

The judge appointed Pottenger prosecuting attorney, and friend Pott, as we called him, drew up one indictment against one Pemberton, for shooting into a Bird's nest. The charge was malicious assault with intent to kill. His honor allowed Pottenger seventy-five dollars. Marquett defended Pemberton for ten dollars, and quashed the indictment, and Pemberton skipped the country before other pro-

ceedings could be had. The story of the crime is as follows: Old man Bird had some difficulty with Pemberton about the chickens, and one of the young Birds (a pullet) sung some unsavory songs for Pemberton's benefit. Pemberton met the old Bird one morning at the door and demanded satisfaction, and finally drew a revolver and shot, the ball missing the old Bird, but passing through the door and lodging in the wall just above a bed full of young Birds. Then he hit the old Bird a lick on the head with the butt of the revolver. The old Bird flew to the justice's office, all covered with blood, just as his honor was being seated with his little family at the breakfast table, and, of course, a little scene occurred, which we will not relate.

In the summer of 1864, the whole West was very easily excited after the horrible massacre in Minnesota. Wild rumors were afloat continually, and the scattered settlements were harassed with fears throughout the whole summer and fall. The most trifling circumstances were magnified as they were related by the panic-stricken people into general massacres, or wholesale slaughtering of some neighboring settlement. The impression prevailed that the rebel government at Richmond was inciting the red-skins to a merciless warfare all along the frontier. Tomahawks and scalping knives of the red devils were vividly pictured in all our dreams. We knew this much, that the dark hours of the war presented a grand opportunity for them to clean us out, root and branch. We also knew that they were in no friendly mood; or, in other words, we were quite sure they were thirsting for our blood, and all that kept them back was their fear of a terrible retribution; and further, the fire we saw was not all fox fire. There were people murdered by them in Nebraska, and not a few. At Plum creek of the west, on Turkey creek, on the Little Blue, there were murders and kidnapping, such as make our blood boil to this day as we think of them. We had just cause to fear, and it would have been foolhardiness to be otherwise than on the alert.

On one occasion, when the writer was at Nebraska City with a load of salt, we had arranged to help Jacob Dawson haul a steam saw-mill out from Little Wyoming, which was a few miles north of the city. While we were yet loading the boiler, word was current that there had been murders at Plum creek. Now there were two Plum creeks,

and we all feared it might be the Plum creek in Seward county. However, it proved to be the other. But it answered the purpose of getting up a big scare. We were uneasy and hurried up all we could with loads. We reached Stove creek ranch, thirty miles east of salt basin that night at about eleven o'clock, and had it not been that we dare not attempt the crossing in the night we probably would have traveled all night. In the morning it was raining and we could not cross until about noon. We were eating dinner when we saw a long train of teams coming over the hills from the west. We knew mischief was to pay. We hailed the first that approached us to learn what we could.

"Oh, all the people on Blue river are killed, and all the settlements of Salt creek have fled from their homes and are at Shirley's ranch on Stevens' creek." "Do you know anything about my family," asked the writer, hurriedly. "Yes, they are at Shirley's ranch with the rest." Hurrah, boys, now for Shirley's ranch on a double quick.

We tumbled the engine out of one wagon, unhitched from the boiler and put four yoke of oxen on an empty wagon, and if ever oxen traveled it was there and then.

There was four of us, and we took turns whipping, and the wonder is that we did not kill the oxen, for it was extremely hot. We reached the ranch just after dark, and a motley crew we found; at least a hundred people were there, men, women, and children. They were well over their scare, but were well along in the mad state. Everybody was cross almost to ugliness. Shirley had built a new house, but had not moved into it. This was stowed full above and below. His old house was full and the yard was full. The clothing was all wet and also the bedding. Many were suffering with hunger. We found wife and babes stowed away up-stairs in a bed that was wet as wet could be. The story of their panic was told, and was as follows: The night before word came to the neighborhood that the settlement on the Blue were all murdered, and to all appearances the red-skins would bounce on the Salt creek settlers that night; it was then nearly dark; wife and children were at the mercy of some good neighbor, as they had no team. Uncle Peter Bellows came nobly to the rescue. With his broad German accent he said, "Mrs. Coax, you shall go wid us." Blessed be the name of Uncle

Pete forever! But Uncle Pete had his peculiarities. He was a great hand to gather up things, such as old log chains, old plowshares, broken pitchforks, horseshoes (he hadn't a horse in the world), ox yokes, and all sorts of old irons; he was rich in old irons. Well, in packing up to go Uncle Pete had to take the last one of his old irons, but in his hurry he forgot to take any provisions for the family. When he comes for wife he says: "Mrs. Coax, ve takes you and de childern, but ve can't take noting else; vell dot is so, hurry up. Mine Cot, the Ingins is coming shure enough."

Wife protested that she must take something to eat and some bedding, and finally persuaded him to take a sack (50 lbs.) of flour and a ham of meat and a bed, if she would walk herself. We then had three children, aged respectively, a girl five years, a girl three years, and a boy sixteen months old.

The oldest girl walked, the second one was perched up on the load of goods; wife carried the babe on her right arm and with the left hand carried one end of a trunk a mile and a half. The babe she carried the full ten miles that dark stormy night. Wild with fright they went pell-mell. Imagine if you can the terrors of that awful night—the rolling thunder, the lurid lightning, with a mortal dread of the savage foe. Weary and fainting they arrived at the ranch late in the night. In the morning it developed that that sack of flour and ham of meat were all the provisions in camp for a hundred hungry souls, except some green corn purchased of Shirley. But they had plenty of old irons.

It further developed that there were no hostile Indians within less than a hundred miles. By the morning after we arrived in camp the panic had entirely subsided and all were ready to return to their homes.

Within the following two weeks things were quiet. The writer had a quantity of salt that it was necessary to haul to market. Our bread and butter for the coming winter depended on it. It was perilous to leave home. It was certain starvation to stay at home. We must go and take our chances.

One bright summer afternoon we made ready with a big load of salt and started for Nebraska City, arrived at Wood's ranch at night, turned the oxen out to grass, ate supper and went to bed. Near midnight, Dr. Crimm, wife, and her sister, came as if Satan was after

them. "The Indians are upon us sure enough this time," they shouted. "You must go for your wife and little ones or they will all be slaughtered." All was wild excitement. The writer was somewhat incredulous, but standing between doubt and fear, there was only one course to take. We must fly to the rescue. We hastily hitched up old "Nig" and "Darb," and went on the dead run for home. Just as the morning light was breaking we passed Uncle Jake Dawson's cabins, standing on the ground now occupied by Commercial block. There was a sleep-and-go-easy sort of fellow by the name of John Giles in the neighborhood at the time. John was standing sentinel at the west end of the cabin. We hailed him and asked what was the matter, rather derisively. We were somewhat provoked at what we thought to be a useless scare. He sharply retorted, "You'll find out before you get to the basin." We went on feeling that it was another sell out. When we reached home we found everything in dire confusion. Many had left and all the balance were hurriedly preparing for flight. In the anguish of despair we said, "Wife, what shall we do?" She answered, "I will stay if others would stay, but we can't stay if the place is deserted by all the neighbors." A hurried consultation resulted in this, that we would all go to the river with the salt and remain there until matters had become settled.

Uncle Pete here appears on the scene again. Wife had gone over the hill to drive up the cow that we might take her, while we were busy loading up our bed clothing and provisions. We were talking over the situation, when all of a sudden several Indians put in an appearance. They were some twenty rods distant when first discovered. We were just then sorry for our incredulity. The dread moment had come, we said to ourselves. Uncle Pete started on the double quick, but we commanded him to face about and dance to whatever music might come. "It's too late to run," we said, and at the same moment we jumped into the road ahead of the red-skins, and commanded a halt.

The leader pulled out a dirty white rag and began swinging it and hallooing that, "Me good Ingin," "me good Omaha," "me no Sioux." Oh, how our hearts fluttered just then. The Indians were about as much frightened as we were; they knew the people were wonderfully excited. "Me good Omaha" was sweet music in our ears

just then. We loaded up our little stuff, tied the old cow behind the wagon, loaded on the children, and pushed out for the river, leading almost a forlorn hope. The load of salt was left at Wood's ranch. When we had piled our beds, provisions, and children on top of a huge load of salt we must have presented a grotesque spectacle. It was no laughing matter then, but now it's no matter if you laugh. Suffice it to say we were welcomed by our friends in Nebraska City just as cordially as if we had ridden in a gilded carriage to their door.

When it became certain that the Union would triumph over the rebellion and there would be ample security here as elsewhere for life and property, then great numbers came. Also a further stimulus to settlement was the certainty of the building of the Union Pacific R. R. Its eastern terminus had been fixed in the fall of 1864, and the first ground was broken, and it may fairly be said that Nebraska had awakened to a new and vigorous life. During the spring of 1864, having become convinced that it occasionally rained on Blue river, we made up our mind to cast our lot with the little settlement in the neighborhood where now stands the beautiful little city of Seward, and made preparation during the summer, accomplished our object, and made the removal Dec. 1st.

Thus ends our immediate connection with the struggling pioneers of Lancaster county, and there it begins with those of Seward county.

Of those good old days of pioneer life we have many, yea very many, pleasant recollections. There were some dark clouds overspreading our skies at times, but every cloud, let it be never so dark, "had its silver lining."

Friendships there sprang up that will remain true so long as life shall last. To have been a pioneer in Nebraska in helping to open the way of civilization, we consider an honor, and looking back through the years—years of pleasant sunshine and prosperity, years of dark clouds, of danger, and adversity, we rejoice that we came to Nebraska and helped to lay the foundations of this mighty commonwealth—"our own, our loved Nebraska."

There were quite a number of the early settlers that should have honorable mention in these reminiscences, and we can hardly forego the pleasure of mentioning some of them.

J. N. Beatty and W. R. Davis spent the autumn of 1861 in making salt. The former is now a resident of Osage, Kansas. Hon.

Wm. Inlay conducted the salt business at the little basin near the stock yards during 1862-63 and until the spring of 1864. John S. Gregory located on the north side of the big basin in 1862, and put up quite extensive improvements, and built the first frame house in that part of the county. Mr. Gregory was a unique character, and cut quite a figure for some years both in business and later in the litigation of the county, wherein a Mr. Eaton, of Plattsmouth (now deceased), was an interested party. To show the brass of some of our early citizens, we must relate that while the basin was known as the Great Salt Basin for years throughout the country, our friend thought to perpetuate his name and perhaps make it famous, secured the help of our congressman and got a postoffice under the name of Gregory Basin. The name didn't stick worth a cent, neither did the post-office. Milton Langdon (now deceased) was connected with the salt interests from the spring of 1862 to 1864, and afterwards filled the office of treasurer of the county. Dr. Crimm and a Mr. Diers, of Brownville, Nebraska, ran quite an extensive salt business during the year of 1864. Hardenburg and Linderman, of New Jersey, commenced operations in 1866. These we believe to be the principal operators in the manufacture of salt until after the formation of the state government in 1867.

In future chapters, while they will relate to the settlement of Seward county, we will have frequently to refer to Lancaster, as they are so blended in interest.

CHAPTER II.

SEWARD COUNTY—NAME CHANGED—FIRST SETTLERS—FIRST HOMESTEAD—FIRST DEATH—FIRST BIRTH—FIRST REPRESENTATIVE IN LEGISLATURE—WINTER FLOOD—MILFORD FOUNDED—CAMDEN FOUNDED—EARNEST WORK TO SECURE SETTLERS—ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY—FIRST OFFICERS ELECTED—UNORGANIZED TERRITORY TO THE WEST—FIRST COUNTY SEAT ELECTION—IMPEACHMENT OF COUNTY CLERK—STORM OF INDIGNATION—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARRESTED—LUDICROUS SCENES—THE WINTER OF DESOLATION, 1866 AND 1867—LOSS OF STOCK—THE CAPITAL LOCATED—INCREASE OF SETTLEMENT—SEWARD SURVEYED—ITS FIRST SETTLERS AND BUSINESS—SEWARD OUTGENERATED—ATLAS FOUNDED—FIRST RAILROAD BOND PROPOSITION—SECOND BOND PROPOSITION—THIRD PROPOSITION—COUNTY SEAT FIGHT AND SEWARD'S FINAL TRIUMPH—MIDLAND ROAD COMPLETED—BLUE VALLEY RECORD FOUNDED—REPORTER FOUNDED—NEWSPAPER WAR—CHURCHES ESTABLISHED—SCHOOLS—GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE—CLOUGH MURDER—UTICA FOUNDED—LEADING THE MORMONS—CASSLER MURDERS MONROE—HIS TRIAL AND EXECUTION.

Seward county was an attachè of Lancaster until its organization in 1865. It originally bore the name of "Greene," having been named for Gen. Greene, of Missouri, under the administration of President Buchanan. When Gen. Greene cast his lot with the rebels, the Nebraska legislature concluded that none of her fair counties should bear the dishonored name of a rebel, therefore the great secretary was honored by having his glorious name (Seward) perpetuated in one of the brightest and fairest of the noble counties of our beautiful Nebraska.

It is a matter of dispute whether Thomas West, who located on the South Blue at what is known as West Mills, or Daniel Morgan, who settled on the North Blue about four miles north of Milford, were the first permanent white settlers. We think it very doubtful if either party kept the right date of their settlement. Mr. Morgan claims to have made his settlement as early as 1858. Mr. West also claims to have made his in 1859. We think Mr. West is much nearer correct. At a very early day it was our understanding that Mr. West was the first permanent settler, and that he dropped out of the throng of gold

seekers that were on their way to the mountains in 1860. Tradition tells us that a Mr. McKinley and a Mr. Morton lived on the North Blue, near where Ruby station now is, for a little time in about the year 1858, and that they got into trouble with the Indians and killed two of them, and were compelled to vacate.

The graves of these Indians (or the supposed graves) have been pointed out to us on the side hill near the old Morgan settlement. J. L. Davison opened a ranch one mile west of the old Camden bridge in the autumn of 1862, and W. J. Thompson opened one about the same time near the mouth of Walnut creek.

In the same fall A. J. Wallingford also opened his ranch at the old Camden bridge, John E. Fouse at the mouth of Beaver creek, and Daniel Millspaw opened what was known as the Hole in the Ground, farther to the west and near the line of York county. The Hole in the Ground puts us in mind of a little story connected therewith. One dark night some freighters were stopping with Uncle Daniel, as he was called, and while Uncle Dan was cooking supper on his great fire-place the boys were out looking after their teams, and concluded to have some sport at the old man's expense. The chimney was very large and with an uncommonly wide mouth. The boys were pretending to be groping their way around in the dark, and all at once one of them purposely blundered into the great chimney mouth and came down like some fiery demon into the fire and scattered Uncle Dan's supper right and left. The old man thought Satan had come for him.

The old Camden bridge was built in the summer of 1860 by Nebraska City enterprise, and to secure a shorter and better route for the overland traffic. Wm. E. Hill was the builder. Prior to this all the travel across the plains went *via* what is now Ashland and the Platte valley. Job Reynolds and Samuel Long located on the North Blue in the spring of 1863; also C. J. Neihardt and T. L. Rogers. Jesse R. Johnson and David Barton made settlement on the South Blue in 1864.

Robert T. Gale made the first homestead entry on the 2d day of January, 1863, and the second day that homesteading was fashionable. The homestead law took effect January 1, 1863. His entry was No. 7 in this land district, and comprised a portion of section 21, township 11, range 3 east, and is partly occupied by the eastern por-

tion of the city of Seward. Mr. Gale, however, was not able to make his permanent home on his claim until the spring of 1864. Mr. Gale is entitled to the honor of being the first permanent settler in this portion of the county, where he resided until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1867. Mr. William Imlay and his father, David Imlay, Sr., and their families, made their settlement in the same spring. A Mr. William Wymore and a Mr. Olmstead wintered in this neighborhood the previous winter, but vacated in the early spring.

The first entry of public lands was made in the summer of 1861 by E. L. Ellis, a part of section 18, township 11, range 3 east. Mr. Ellis did not make his settlement until the spring of 1865.

John Scott made the first permanent settlement at Oak Groves in the spring of 1864.

During the cold and dreary winter of 1863-64 the writer and wife were in a deep study to know just what to do. The salt business had completely played out, and they found "their occupation gone," an ever-increasing family on their hands. Sickness had blighted their home, and it was a question of deep solicitude as to what could be done to secure a competency for the future. After discussing the pros and cons of a life on a homestead, we made the firm resolve to try and build for us and our children a permanent home.

It was an earnest struggle, for we knew but little about farming, and the long siege of sickness of the wife for nearly a year had so impoverished us that it would have taken a full dozen like us to make one respectable shadow. But the resolve was taken, and one bright morning in February, on foot and alone, the writer started to look up a claim. At that time timber was deemed a prime necessity, and it was so. Be it remembered that there were no railroads to bring lumber and coal. The settler must have timber.

We took Mr. Greeley's advice and went west. Our way led across the Middle creek hills and the great plains to the west, and just as the bright sun was sinking behind the western hills, there opened to our view the grand valley of the North Blue, with its long lines of timber stretching far away to the southward and northward, and the diverging lines of Lincoln creek and Plum creek. Oh! to us it was a grander view than Moses had from Pisgah's top. It was an enchanting, rapturous scene. We said in our heart, "this is the place

we long have sought," and we will go and possess it. As we stood gazing at the meandering streams converging to the common center, we saw a city in the future crowning that beautiful plateau by the eye of faith. That faith was with us from that moment "like an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast." It's right there, and a magnificent little city it is. Shortly after this we secured our choice of claims by purchasing of a prior claimant, and we struck for Nebraska City on foot to file our papers on our new home.

We are happy to say that we still own that old homestead, and while we have not lived on it for fourteen years, the nine years' residence with the joys and sorrows has made it to us the dearest spot of all this earth. It was our privilege and pleasure to guide some others to our chosen home, among whom were Hon. William Imlay and his father, Grandfather Imlay, as we called him, and his family, and others. We had a tedious preparation to make before it was possible to move, and the Indian troubles of that summer were ever before us like a horrid nightmare. After our return from the last stampede, we visited our new home to put up our hay for winter, and a pathetic incident occurred, the story of which we quote from the History of Nebraska, to which the writer contributed it some years ago.

Father Dunaway, as he was familiarly called, settled on his homestead in section 3, township 11, range 3, about three miles north of the site of Seward, in July, 1864. His family had not yet arrived. He had made a small lumber shanty and was making other improvements. In the month of September, the writer, being yet a resident of Lancaster county, was here putting up hay preparatory to moving later in the fall.

Grandfather Imlay was taking a stroll for recreation, and made it a point, as had been his custom, to call on Father Dunaway and have a chat. He went to the shanty, but the old man was not to be seen. He supposed the old man was hunting his oxen. He sat down and read a book that his eye chanced to meet. Waiting awhile, he went out and hallooed, but heard no response. He then began a search, and a little way to the south of the shanty he found the tall grass wallowed down. His suspicions being aroused, he continued the search, and following a slight trail further to the south, he found the old man dead and cold, in the midst of a large patch of wallowed grass.

He hurried home and told his son, David P. Imlay. Dave mounted a horse and hurried to Lincoln creek (the land that is now Lewis Anderson's farm), where R. T. Gale, William and Joseph Imlay, and the writer, were putting up hay.

What shall we do? was asked by one and all. It was suggested that Mr. Cox, being a justice of the peace for Lancaster county, would probably come nearer having a coroner's jurisdiction than any other available person, there being no officers yet in Seward county. Where can we get enough men for jurors? was the next question. Mr. Gale thought they could be found at the Morgan settlement, about six miles down the river. A venire for a coroner's jury (the first, last, and only one ever issued by this officer) was issued (in rather a crude form, we expect). Mr. Gale was sworn in as a special constable, with power to fill in names as occasion might require. All was hurry, and horseflesh was not spared, and just as the sun was setting behind the western hills that beautiful September evening, the little company arrived at the scene of the death of their friend and neighbor. Parties present were: R. T. Gale, special constable, David Imlay, Sr., D. P. Imlay, William Imlay, Joseph Imlay, Job Reynolds, Thomas Morgan, William Morgan, and W. W. Cox.

It was a solemn scene. A little meadow nearly surrounded by a fringe of beautiful timber, a calm autumn evening, a sad stillness in the presence of death. With uncovered heads and uplifted hands the jury took their solemn oath, which, considering all the surroundings, made a deep impression upon all present. The inquest resulted in finding a verdict that the death of Father Dunaway was caused by cramp colic, as they verily believed.

A rough board coffin was improvised from lumber of the shanty, and we buried him beneath the waving branches of a sturdy oak, there to rest until called on the morning of the resurrection, and we returned to our homes sadly, because the death angel had so early visited our little settlement. The goods and chattels of the deceased were properly cared for and turned over to the widow upon her arrival.

On the morning of the last day of November, 1864, we loaded up the remainder of our earthly goods, assisted by our old friend and neighbor, Hon. William Imlay, and started for our new home in the wilderness, where we arrived on the first day of December. The

day we reached the homestead was a cold and gloomy one, and the sight of our beautiful grove made our hearts glad. We hastily built a huge fire of dry wood at hand, and while the north wind whistled around, making a melancholy sound, rustling through the timber, we rejoiced in the pleasant comfort of a good fire at our own home. Our little cabin with its huge fire-place was a home of comfort and many pleasant memories.

We must return to Lancaster county and relate a little incident which secured to Seward county her first representative in the legislature of 1865. As before stated, Seward was attached to Lancaster for judicial and legislative purposes. The writer was a delegate to the Lancaster county convention in the autumn of 1864, and we urged upon the convention the propriety of giving Seward county the float. It was conceded. William Imlay was nominated and elected without opposition. We were somewhat chagrined, however, when we learned that at the election in Seward county (held at the house of R. T. Gale) there were only seven votes cast. This election was held near the house, in a wagon belonging to Mr. Wooley. A cigar box served for a ballot box. Fred Wooley, then a lad, held the box while the men voted. They were all for Mr. Imlay, and he made a good member. The Lancaster fellows felt rather cheap that Seward county, without a delegate in their convention and only seven votes at the polls, should furnish a member to help represent them.

There were four families of us in our neighborhood. We put in the time as best we could during the winter. Mr. Imlay put in most of the winter at Omaha.

For the benefit of modern legislators we would remark, our member walked from his home to Plattsmouth and thus squarely earned his mileage.

Inasmuch as we were to blame for his election he required of us that we should do his chores, chop the firewood for the family, etc. We did it like a little man. Indians were strolling through continually, and were a great annoyance. They were intolerable beggars. During the early part of the winter the first white child was born in this settlement to Mr. and Mrs. Gale, viz., Miss Clara Gale, now a resident of Oregon.

March 16, 1865, our son, Lincoln W. Cox, was born, and was the first boy born in the north half of the county.

In the month of February, just after Mr. Imlay had returned from Omaha, there came a heavy winter rain, which raised the Blue river to a then unprecedented height. Messrs. Imlay and Gale had each built their cabins on low ground, as they never once dreamed that the river would get on such a bender. On the second night of the rain the river flooded all the bottoms and caught the people napping.

Mr. Gale discovered water rushing into his cabin, carried his wife and young babe to the roof of his cabin, wrapped up as best could be done with bedding, and himself waded out and reached Father Imlay's house, where a team was obtained and the family rescued from a most perilous situation. A few hours more nothing was to be seen of the cabin, as the wild waters rolled entirely over it. Mr. Imlay's family were awakened by a child crying that was sleeping in a trundle bed. Mr. I. jumped out of bed to attend to the child, and to his horror he stepped into water knee deep. He rushed to the door, opened it, and a flood of water rushed in. The family made their escape by crawling out of a window at the rear of the house, where the ground was much higher. The family took refuge on a hay stack, and were entirely surrounded by water, where they were compelled to remain four days and nights. They were on the west side of the river and beyond the reach of human help. Were it not getting in too much of self we could relate how we struggled to rescue them from their perilous position and came very near losing our life in two unsuccessful attempts in their behalf. Mr. Imlay may tell you about that. After spending four nights of suffering with cold and hunger, we, *i.e.* Mr. Imlay and myself, succeeded in making a foot crossing by cutting tall trees on each side and interlocking their branches. We carried the children over, and happy they were to get to a warm fire and a good breakfast.

During the winter Lewis Moffit visited the settlement and entered the townsite of Seward, and filed papers on a homestead near what is now Marysville, on Lincoln creek. Mr. Moffit moved his family to the neighborhood in the following July.

Lincoln creek received its name about the first of March, 1864, the time of the second visit of the writer to this locality. In company with William and David Imlay, we were exploring the valley of Lincoln creek and admiring the beauty of the stream, and all at

once we happened to remember that the stream had no name, and we christened it then and there with the name immortal (Lincoln).

In the early spring of 1865, Richard Sampson, Thomas Skillman, John Roberts, Jr., and John Durland, together with their families, arrived from Illinois, and each made settlement on their present farms. The family of Mr. Dunaway, deceased, also came and took possession of the homestead. The first sermon preached in the neighborhood was in the month of June, 1865, by Rev. Dr. McKesson, in a grove near the residence of the writer. The second by Rev. E. L. Clark, during the autumn, at the house of the writer. Mr. Clark joined our settlement in October, 1865.

In the summer of 1864 Thomas West erected a saw-mill and attached a corn burr and was prepared to grind a little corn for us.

Milford was founded by J. L. Davison in April, 1864, and then the long struggle commenced between the people of the south part of the county and those of the north part as to whom the prize of county seat should belong. Milford had many advantages over its rival (Seward). The southern part had by far the most settlers, and Milford had the great steam wagon road with the overland traffic passing through it. Besides it had a very superior water power. It also had such men as the irrepressible John Cadman and William Fields to back it and render it great assistance by pointing out to incoming immigrants its superiority over other localities on the Blue; and, by the way, J. L. Davison was no slouch in making the best of an opportunity. He was always ready for any enterprise.

During the summer of 1866 Hon. H. W. Parker made settlement at Camden, near the old bridge, and commenced the erection of a grist-mill. Camden for a time had the promise of the B. & M. railroad, and it aspired to become the principal city of the Blue valley. It was in the best settled portion of the county, near the junction of the North and West Blue rivers, and seemed to be on the great national highway. Parker was wide-awake and full of business pluck. He put up a fine flouring mill for that day, and by his own energy succeeded in building up quite a little town. Camden aspired to be the county seat, but its geographical position forbid that, and the moment she discovered it to be impossible to gain that prize, she determined to throw her votes and influence against Milford and in favor of Seward, and from an early date Camden and Milford were at war.

Seward and Camden were fast friends. Thus Milford was between two fires, and they were pretty hot ones at that. Seward had secured the friendly aid of the Lancaster folks, and had quite the advantage in being more centrally located in the county. Her friends were ready to dare and do any work to secure the coveted prize. For the years of 1865, 1866, and 1867 the principal public business was to secure settlers for the various localities. In that line there was lively work. The lands were equally good north and south, and it would be most amusing at this day to see the strategy resorted to to catch settlers and get them located. Every cabin was a free hotel, "the latch string was always out." We would drop all holds and go a mile or five miles to meet a prairie schooner and invite them to stay all night. We would just make the immigrant think we were the best folks in all the world. We made no charges for showing land. We all had the story of the coming grandeur of our locality thoroughly learned, and when we had finally secured our new made friend to our neighborhood, he at once became so interested in the coming struggle that he would willingly sacrifice all his wife's relation to secure an advantage for his pet locality. Each party made free use of the press of the territory in setting forth the special advantages and beauties of their neighborhood. Some of their articles were quite spicy reading. Each writer was careful to impress the reader with the central idea that his was just the place above all others in the Blue valley to locate. These newspaper articles helped to rally to the county many intelligent citizens. They also helped to inflame the people to impassioned zeal to work and win or die in the harness. Thus matters stood prior to the organization of the county. The lines were as sharply drawn between the north and south as in national affairs.

During the summer of 1865 the preliminary steps were taken to effect a partial organization, and at the territorial election that year first county officers were elected. The board of county commissioners elected were three men that were thoroughly representative in their make-up. They were each of them identified with the interests of the people. All had the benefit of a long residence in the territory. Two of them had served terms in the territorial legislature (Sirs Parker and Imlay), and Mr. Thompson was a business man of more than ordinary ability. Mr. H. W. Parker represented the in-

terests of the Camden people, W. J. Thompson those of Milford, and Wm. Imlay those of Seward. While each of these gentlemen were thoroughly in earnest in matters pertaining to the interest of their own particular constituency, they were truly loyal to Seward county.

Thomas West was honored by being elected county clerk; C. J. Neihardt, treasurer; J. L. Davison, probate judge; and — Chapin, sheriff. The first meeting of the commissioners was held at Thompson's ranch, on Walnut creek; afterwards they met at Thomas West's, and at C. J. Neihardt's, on the North Blue. Our commissioners at this time had jurisdiction over an immense scope of unorganized territory, including York, Hamilton, Adams, and a part of Hall counties.

We notice buried up, as among "the ancient and forgotten lore" of the county clerk's office, a petition asking to have a precinct formed and a justice of the peace appointed for the following described district of country: Commencing at a point on the Platte river at the north-east corner of township eleven north, range seven west of the sixth principal meridian; thence south to the south-east corner of township eight; thence west to the east boundary line of Kearney county; thence north to the Platte river; thence eastward to the place of beginning. Please examine the map and trace the boundaries of that precinct. You will find that it includes the southern portion of Hall and the northern portion of Adams counties. We find that the first tax levy was six mills on a dollar, and it would produce, if it was all collected, \$423. This was for the general county fund. At this time there were no legal roads in the county, no school-houses, no bridges except on the old freight road at Camden, Walnut, and Beaver creeks, all of which were built by private enterprise. Also a low water bridge on North Blue, on the farm of Wm. Imlay.

The spring of 1866 brought many new-comers to all parts of the county, among whom were John Roberts, Sr., Joseph Sampson, Rev. E. W. Johnson, James A. Brown, E. B. Shafer, Roger Cooper, George Rogers, and Wm. Cooper, who settled in the Seward settlement; and the Milford settlement had a goodly number of valuable acquisitions, among whom were William Reed, Abram Courtright, Henry Wortendyke, Samuel Brown, and others. Milford Mills were built by Messrs. Davison & Reed, and the nucleus of the town of Milford was formed. The county seat question was agitated during that year, but

as the settlements were so sparse, it was deemed inexpedient to submit the location of it to a vote until another year. The southern portion of the county was anxious to have the matter brought before the people at the earliest possible date, but the northern portion of the county thought there would be luck in leisure. They knew that they were gaining steadily, and it would only be a question of time when they would be able to more fairly cope with them single-handed. It was finally agreed that the county seat should be voted for at the October election of 1867. Milford, Camden, and Seward contested for the prize. We very much regret that we find it impossible to get from the records the number of votes cast at that election. The returns of the election of that year seem to have been entirely lost. We remember that Milford led and Seward was second, with Camden in the rear, having about thirty votes; and we also remember that the whole vote cast did not much exceed one hundred. A special election was then called, and Camden from that time threw her votes in favor of Seward.

W. H. Reed here comes upon the scene, and cuts a very important figure. He was elected county clerk at the October election, consequently at the special county seat election he had an important part in the canvass of the votes. He chose the canvassers, and so arranged that Milford's interests should be well cared for. Seward had a clear majority of the votes cast of ten votes, but our friend Reed was not to be trifled with. So he, together with his canvassers, concluded to go behind the returns and throw out such votes as they found or thought to be illegal. They found a sufficiency, of course, and threw out twelve votes, which left Milford two majority.

At the next meeting the commissioners and clerk wrangled over the matter, and it is very hard to tell just what they did do. Two of the board, Inlay and Parker, assert one thing, and Thompson and Reed assert to the contrary. The clerk, however, made a record of the following import: "It was resolved that the county clerk be instructed to post notices of the location of the county seat in the various precincts."

At the next meeting of the board Mr. Inlay offered the following: "That so much of the record of December 2 as relates to posting notices of the location of the county seat be expunged from the record."

Imlay and Parker supported the motion, and insisted that no such resolution had been passed at the meeting above stated. Mr. Thompson voted in the negative, and the clerk also assumes to record his vote in the negative in the language following: "And so saith the county clerk."

Articles of impeachment were filed against the clerk for falsifying the record, and then commenced a long, tedious litigation that assumed different shapes at every change of the moon, and continued for four years with varying successes. Interested parties threw their whole soul and lots of their money into the contest. Reed's trial lasted until late in the winter. Much bitterness was manifested on the part of partisans of either side. The first session of the court of impeachment was held at Seward, in the old log school-house, and the jury of course disagreed.

The second trial was held at Camden, and resulted in a verdict of acquittal. There were numerous arrests of commissioners and clerk at different times during the next year, first on the one side, then the other. Every court in the county and in Lancaster county was brought into requisition at various stages of the game. One fracas we must relate, it being so full of fire and vinegar that it ought not to be lost to the children. Warrants had been issued by Judge Cadman (then a probate judge in Lancaster county) for the arrest of Messrs. Parker and Imlay, on some charge—we forget what. Officers, under the guidance of Lawyer P., of Lincoln, and in company of that gentleman, went one dark night to the residence of H. W. Parker, in search of him. Mr. Parker had smelled a rat and was not there. Lawyer P. was very anxious to secure his game, and believing Parker was in the house, rushed into the bedroom and stripped the clothing off the bed in which Mrs. Parker's hired girl, now Mrs. Dan. Harris, was sleeping. This raised a storm of indignation at Camden and Seward that would have cost the sleek young lawyer his life had he been seen at either place before the blood was cooled.

Parker came to Seward neighborhood and put Imlay on his guard. It seems that one object was to hinder these commissioners from attending a suit that was to take place at the office of Judge J. D. Maine, at Oak Grove, the following day. Parker and Imlay evaded the officers and *posse* and made their way to Judge Maine's office. Court was duly opened, and the trial of the case was in progress,

when these officers, led by the young attorney and a large *posse* from Milford, broke in upon them and arrested the two commissioners and started with them for Lincoln. John Olney, we believe it was, mounted a horse and rushed over to Seward and spread the news, and the settlers rallied at the house of Lewis Moffit just at dark, and it was a dark, dreary night, having rained much during the day. About a dozen of us resolved to go to Lincoln that night to the relief of the prisoners. We went way around by the Oak Grove settlement, and rallied them to our assistance. The night was so very dark that one of the company had to go on foot ahead and carry a lantern. We reached Lincoln just at daylight. It was raining. We were mad when we left home, and by the time we had reached Lincoln we were ready to fight a tiger. Our crowd was the biggest, and we were probably the maddest. You ought to have seen those Milford fellows keep out of our way. The sympathy of the Lincoln people was with us, and we had everything our own way on the streets. In due time Judge Cadman opened his court.

We remember that Judge Pound was employed by our folks to conduct the defense, and he made on that occasion probably the ablest speech of his life, and probably that speech gave him the boost that has resulted in his splendid success in life.

We have never been able to find out where Judge Cadman got his jurisdiction over cases arising in Seward county. Mr. Inlay was dismissed, but Parker was held to bail for his appearance at the district court. This he peremptorily refused to give. The Seward boys said, "They can't take you to jail, Mr. Parker," and they didn't try. They wanted us all, including Parker, to go home. We were in no hurry, but we went when we got ready. The Lincoln folks cheered us, and the Milford fellows went home chop-fallen. That case was never heard of in the courts afterwards.

This was only one of the many ludicrous scenes connected with the contest. It seemed in many instances that each party vied with the other to see which could act the most ridiculously. Both parties were fleeced out of hundreds of dollars by smooth-tongued Lincoln lawyers, which only helped to complicate matters and get us all into deeper trouble. This sectional strife so embittered the people against one another that they could not reason about the matter as intelligent men should. Looking backward through the years, we can see many

things that were done in haste and anger, that were born of prejudice, that we should all be heartily ashamed of. We were many times misled by unscrupulous lawyers into snares which cost us dearly. Our time and our treasure were sacrificed without stint. In many instances our prejudice and our ambition got away with our better judgment. The county seat cost many of us that got it more money and time and hard labor than it has ever been worth to us, while those that lost it were still worse off. It is our advice to the children to never engage in a county seat contest, for when a stubborn fight ensues it will cost more than it will be worth.

The winter of 1866-67 was one long to be remembered by all the old-timers. The snow began falling December 1st, and continued with short intervals until April. It was a succession of storms following each other rapidly through the whole winter, and on the first day of April there were two feet of solid snow. As an index of what some of the storms of that winter were we will relate this instance: We were teaching the first school that winter in a little log school-house that stood near Mrs. Spear's residence. The building was comparatively tight, with a sod covered roof. It began snowing during the day on Friday, and continued over Saturday and Sunday, but calmed down so that we thought we must go to the school on Monday morning.

We waded through the drifts to the school-house, and attempted to open the door. It would not open, and upon investigation we found the house full to the roof of snow.

We were compelled to abandon the school. On the 6th day of April the waters began to find their way through the huge drifts into the river, and it was a sight to behold the torrents of water rolling down from the high lands. The bottom lands became a sea of water—every ravine was a river. All the settlers on the bottom lands were driven from their homes. Communication was entirely cut off, provisions were very short, and much suffering ensued. Breadstuff had become entirely exhausted. Some painful scenes of suffering occurred, among which we note the removal of Mother Rogers from her death-bed from her home, which was inundated by the rising waters near Ruby station. Her deliverers barely escaped being overwhelmed by the floods. They took her to Milford, where she died a few days afterward. No such an amount of snow has accumulated in this

country since that winter, and Blue river has never been on such a wild rampage since. It was a happy circumstance that all the settlement was handy to the timber, else they would have perished. It would have been utterly impossible to have opened a road anywhere across the high prairie during January, February, and March. Small game, such as rabbits, quails, and prairie chickens, nearly all perished. The settlers lost a large proportion of their stock. Cattle and horses that lived through the terrible ordeal were but walking shadows when grass came to their relief in the spring. We were all in a sorry plight that spring. The people were half starved themselves, so that they had but little strength or courage to work, and their teams were still worse off, and it was almost next to impossible to get in crops. The summer proved to be a good one for crops of all kinds, and we were all blessed with an abundant harvest. We soon forgot our trouble, and renewed our courage, and from that time fair success crowned the efforts of the early pioneers. The formation of the state government and the location of the capital in an adjoining county gave a wonderful impetus to settlement during the summer and fall of 1867.

The Seward folks held out all possible inducements to the commission to locate the capital on section 16, just north of Seward, but their efforts were of no avail. While our location was acknowledged to be by far more central in the state, and in every way more desirable for the building of a great central city, convenient to the people of the whole state, and surrounded by scenery most magnificent, the influence brought to bear from Nebraska City was so great that the commission yielded to their demands to locate on Salt creek. Nebraska City has had occasion to regret her own fatal mistake, for her child has grown so great as to suck her life-blood and left her to mourn her departed greatness. While we were cheated out of what we were justly entitled to by our position, yet we were in condition to be largely benefited, and we gracefully accepted the situation, and went to work with a will to make the best of our opportunities. The building of a city so near us must facilitate development and advance values very greatly. A flood of immigrants poured in upon us during the fall and following spring. These were happy days for all who had produce to sell. Those fellows that were building Lincoln were awfully hungry, and they had plenty of money. They would

buy anything good, bad, or indifferent, if it could be eaten. Hay, grain, meat, and wood brought very high prices. The oak groves that filled the canons in the north-east part of the county were stripped of timber to keep Lincoln warm and cook her victuals. Under the stimulus of high prices and the general prosperity a large proportion of the government land in the county was taken up during the spring of 1868.

During this summer Seward was surveyed and platted. It was a misfortune that the place had not been surveyed and platted two years previous. Had this been done we would have probably fared better in our county seat contest, for while we were fighting for a prospective town, one that only existed in the minds of men, Milford was a town, in fact, ready to welcome anyone that desired to make it their home. We would also have been better prepared to contest for the capital prize, but this the community could not help. This matter was, of course, in one man's hands, and he was inclined to move slowly. But better late than never. The new town was popular from the first with all the people north of what we called Mason & Dixon's line. Mr. John Roberts built the first frame building in June, 1868, and rented it to Beatty & Davis for a general store. It was a small affair, and occupied the lot on the west side of the square, where Mrs. Tressler's restaurant now stands. J. N. Beatty built the first frame residence on the Windsor hotel block.

This was followed by the residence of W. R. Davis, at his present home. The Commercial house, in embryo, was built by W. H. Tuttle. Dr. L. Walker had located on a farm three miles north-east of town, and what proved to be a lucky wind blew his house to pieces, and scattered it and the family all over the prairie. The doctor was induced to gather up the fragments and rebuild his house in town, on the site of the opera house. By the 4th of July we could fairly say that we had a town, and were ready to celebrate. A flag staff was found in an adjoining grove, and our fair women hastily made a flag. We raised the pole where its many successors have stood and fallen, and sent our little flag skyward to flutter in the gentle zephyrs for the first time. A pile of dirt from the public well served as a platform, and many eloquent speeches were made to the assembled multitude (about twenty persons). Sweet songs were sung, and a general jolly good time was had. Seward grew and prospered, and was the

joy and pride of the neighborhood. H. L. Boyes located in the early spring, and built a saw mill, which proved to be of great value to the people. The first frame school-house was built in the fall of 1869.

Up to the spring of 1869 the old log school-house had answered the triple purpose of school-house, meeting-house, and town hall.

The Milford folks had possession of the county books, and claimed the county seat by virtue of the count made by Reed and his canvassers, while the Seward folks made most desperate efforts to have the election declared in favor of Seward or entirely invalidated and again remanded to the people.

A strong effort was made in the election of 1868 to elect H. W. Parker to the legislature, that we might get such legislation as would hasten a final settlement of the vexed question. He was the republican nominee for the district comprising Saunders, Butler, and Seward counties. Marcus Brush (now deceased), of Ashland, was his opponent. A sharp and bitter sectional fight terminated in the election of Mr. Brush in a strong republican district. The Milford fellows forgot their republicanism, and swallowed Brush, democracy, and all.

Thus we (outgeneraled) were for a further time destined to hold an empty sack. We must fight on and wait through weary years for the prize we so much coveted. Meantime Seward prospered and was gathering strength from month to month. Samuel Manly opened a grocery store during the winter of 1868-69, also a Mr. Humphrey opened a drug store, and Samuel Stevenson started a blacksmith shop on the ground now occupied by the Pritschau block. Frank M. Elsworth opened the first law office during the summer of 1869. March 10, 1870, Hon. O. T. B. Williams issued the first number of the *Nebraska Atlas*. It was a rather small affair, but it was a beginning, and served a very good purpose in its day. It was a very uphill business to publish a paper in so new a community, and in order to keep the *Atlas* from winter killing we made a festival, and devoted the proceeds to relieving its wants.

Seward was a great place for sociables and festivals in the early times, and they were quite enjoyable, being always attended by old and young without distinction of race or color. All stood upon an equality, and they were always successful, both financially and otherwise.

On the 20th of September, 1869, the people voted on the first rail-

road bond proposition. This was the first proposition by the Midland Pacific company, in which they agreed to build their road to the west bank of the Blue river in Seward county for \$50,000 in 10 per cent bonds.

The proposition was so indefinite that it created neither opposition nor enthusiasm. It sort o' went through by default, having fifty-two majority. But the railroad company did not build the road, and our railroad matters rested until the winter of 1871-72, when Dr. Converse requested the business men of Seward and other citizens of the county to meet him at Lincoln, when he offered to build the Midland road through Seward county *via* the city for \$150,000 in 10 per cent twenty year bonds. This proposition was submitted to a vote of the people in the spring of 1872, when a most bitter sectional fight ensued. There were so many of the folks that were opposed to railroad bonds from principle living in and around Milford and Beaver Crossing, and in fact all over the south half of the county, that the proposition was defeated, and Seward was clothed in sackcloth and fairly rolled in ashes for a little season. We remember, when the election returns came in showing our defeat, the long faces of some of our prominent citizens. It would seem that they had lost the last friend they had on earth. A photograph of W. H. Tuttle, J. N. Beatty, Dr. Walker, W. R. Davis, and Jim Harris, together with some others (the writer not included), would, if taken that morning, clearly show how woe-begone our little city appeared, but "behind the clouds were all the stars," and the day of deliverance was near at hand.

We must return to the county seat embroglio. Every effort to get the decision of Reed's board of canvassers overruled by the courts had proved unavailing, and we were in a dilemma to know just what to do. We were afraid to attempt the removal by a two-thirds vote. They understood voting too well over at Milford. We must get the assistance of the legislature, and finally we got their help in the winter of 1870-71. One day while the enemy was napping we got such legislation as gave us the privilege of locating anew the county seat by majority vote.

Now we must measure swords on an even plane, but we had a wily foe. A new project was sprung to locate a B. & M. town at the exact center of the county, about two and a half miles south-west of Seward, with Mr. Phillips, of Lincoln, at the head. This new enemy had for a time most terrible proportions.

Milford had made up her mind to die happy if she could effectually kill Seward, and now was her opportunity. She would throw all her force in favor of the new town. Seward men trembled for awhile, but the clouds rifted. The B. & M. concluded to build her road through Saline county, and was content to take a lion's share of our land—her road she would give to others—and leave us to settle our own domestic affairs. The day of final battle came, and on the 10th day of October, 1871, in one of the most hotly contested elections ever held in Nebraska, we triumphantly established the county seat at Seward by twenty-two more than two-thirds of the votes cast. Then was an hour of rejoicing. Seward was now the "big Ingun," and poor Milford was sorry. But she had made a brave fight and left no stone unturned.

There is an old saying that, "everything is fair in war." Many people in Seward county acted upon that principle, and they were not all Milford people, either, but it is safe to say she had her full share, and if many of her generals and soldiers didn't throw as much dirt as the Seward folks, it was because they were not smart enough. Their intentions were to keep their end up. It is our pleasure, however, to note the fact that in all the bitter fight of four years we believe there was not a fist fight connected with the contest, and, what is to the credit of all concerned, the most bitter partisan of Seward was cordially entertained by all the better class of the Milford people, and *vice versa*. Hospitality was so much a part of their very nature that their sectional enemy must be fed and kindly cared for. This was the universal rule among the whole people, and we are heartily glad that it was so. We are also glad to know that those who fought one another the hardest are to-day the warmest of friends.

Among the notable workers in the interest of Milford, those that were ever ready to bear her banner aloft and fight her battles, first we mention Hon. J. L. Davison, the founder of Milford, and one of the best citizens the county ever possessed; Judge Henry Wortendyke; Abram Courtwright, now resting from his labors in the better land; Hon. D. C. McKillip, now of Seward; Wm. H. Reed, the irrepresible county clerk. He was a "Hector" in the fight. His watchword and battle cry was "Greece or Troy must fall." His battles fought, he rests with his fathers. Then comes Hon. J. H. Culver,

who was at the head of the firm of Culver & Parsons, who had the honor of printing the *Blue Valley Record*. The *Record* was sent out to an admiring world on the 29th day of December, 1870. Friend Culver tells us that the *Record* was a financial success, that they started it on a cash capital of twenty-five cents, and when the paper was retired some years afterward the cash balance was thirty-three and one-third cents and lots of experience. It was a good paper and used to whoop it up for the Seward fellows lively.

The *Record* steadfastly refused to pander to the whisky interest in any way, but was forever pouring broadsides of hot shot into their camp, and the "Shogo Island Picnickers" thought it rather thin.

There were many others worthy of mention, such as Uncle Sammy Brown, Father Merriam, L. D. Laune, Lee Smiley, George B. France, now of York, Father Hazlewood. These men and many others acted well their part and strove manfully to make Milford the prominent city of the valley, but stern fate was against her. But if Milford could not be what her founders desired to make her, she has accomplished very much in the race, and is to-day a fine village with pleasant surroundings—a pleasant home place, a beautiful resort. Her splendid water power has helped her to one of the largest and best flouring mills in the state. Her sanitarium and her pleasure grounds will make her prominent through all the years to come.

Seward, now happy in the possession of the prize she long had sought, was on a genuine boom (in a small way). A comfortable court house was built, principally by subscription, new enterprises were started and new people flocked in by the score.

In the summer of 1872 the third proposition of the Midland railroad was made to the people, and was somewhat different from the previous ones and was more liberal and more definite. Its salient points were as follows:

One hundred thousand dollars in 10 per cent twenty year optional bonds, to be issued and delivered, first \$75,000 when track was completed to the city of Seward, or within one-half mile of the public square, if said track was completed and cars running regular trains by the first day of March, 1873, and \$25,000 to be turned over to them when said track was completed and trains running to the west line of the county. Time indefinite. Also coupled with this prop-

osition was a like proposition for \$25,000 for Seward precinct, comprising what is now F and G precincts. One notable specimen of cutting off one's nose to spite one's own face was manifest in this bond fight. Dr. Converse offered to bind himself to build this road to within a half mile of Milford, thence up the river to Seward, if our southern brethren would withdraw their opposition, but they had voted so unanimously on principle a few months before that they would not yield, but treated the offer with contempt. Therefore the doctor made overtures to the Oak Grove people and took the road just as far north as the ground would permit, and promised a station at Germantown, thus securing their votes, to the discomfiture of Milford.

The old-time bitterness was manifested again in this contest. Every family in the county was visited, and the most desperate struggle ensued. Victory perched upon Seward's banner again, and Milford was in deep distress and refused to be comforted. She had made a most fatal mistake. In her fit of anger she had seriously blundered, and it well nigh cost her her life. She was in splendid condition to have fairly rivaled Seward had she taken the tide at its flood. The cars rolled into Seward on the first day of March, 1873, according to contract, and the future of Seward was assured. The first brick building (Joel Tishue's) was built during the summer of 1873. Wooden structures sprang up as if by magic. This remained the terminus of the road for four seasons, and trade centered with us from all the regions round about. Butler, Polk, York, and Hamilton counties hauled their grain here and were supplied by our merchants. It was a common thing to see the public square fairly blocked with loads of grain.

The capacity of the railroad was insufficient to carry away the wheat, and we have seen thousands of sacks of it piled up around the grain houses. Money was plenty and everybody was prosperous. Our first bank (state bank) was opened that June by Claudius Jones, in a little wooden shanty which was about twelve feet square, but it held plenty of money. Mercantile establishments multiplied and everything was hurrah. The little town began to put on metropolitan airs. The year had been an exceedingly prosperous one with the farmers. Crops were most excellent and brought good prices. Improvements went on at a rapid rate in town and county. Sod houses and log cabins were rapidly disappearing, being replaced by

substantial frame buildings. Groves of timber were springing up in all directions all over the great prairies, roads were opened and improved, bridges were built on the streams. Mills were built, orchards were planted, and all nature hereabouts seemed transformed. New school houses were shining from the hill tops throughout the county. This transformation reminds us that we had lived in the West twelve years (from the spring of 1858 to 1870); that we never heard the locomotive whistle, and you may be assured that its shrill notes made sweet music for our ears, and we hailed the glad day when we saw the first train penetrating the wilderness, and we still say, God bless the railroads and multiply them and give them honest and intelligent management that they may be a blessing to all the people, for they are indispensable to our civilization.

The schools of which Seward is so proud had a beginning in the old log cabin in the winter of 1866-67, with thirty-two scholars. The children that composed that little school are all now men and women, that are living, but several of them are numbered with the dead, among whom were Miss Lucy Clark, daughter of Rev. E. L. Clark, Leroy Moffitt, and Jasper Roberts. It is still our pleasure to personally know numbers of those children who are to-day occupying honorable positions in life, among whom are, Rev. Moulton Clark, of Wisconsin; Rev. Victor Clark, of Illinois; James, Marion, and Douglas Roberts, of Colo.; Rolla Cooper, of Custer county, Neb.; Addison Imlay, of Montana; Mrs. Elsie Boyes, of Seward; Mrs. Myron Stubbs, of Bradshaw, Neb.; Mrs. Laura Hickman, of Seward; Mrs. Sarah Anderson, of Seward; Mrs. Josephine Williams, of Chase county, Neb.; Mrs. Mary Imlay, of Seward; Mrs. Kate J. Ruby, of Marquette, Neb.; and Mrs. Nettie M. Pingree, of Colby, Kan. We should be glad to remember all other members of our little flock in these pages, but they are lost to us among the hurrying crowds of men and women of the world. We hope, however, that they are enjoying good health and they are all useful and happy.

Our first resident minister of the gospel was Rev. E. L. Clark, the founder of the Baptist church of Seward. During the summer of 1866 he preached for us at the house of Lewis Moffit. Rev. Skaigs, a young Methodist minister, also preached occasionally at the same place. We had an organized union Sunday-school as early as the spring of 1866, which continued to flourish until the organization of

the churches. This was the first between Lincoln and Denver. Nearly all the people, old and young, met at the Sabbath-school, and they were greatly benefited. The old log school-house was brought into use during the fall of 1866, and was our meeting place until the summer of 1869, for all public purposes.

The Presbyterian church was organized in the summer of 1868, by Rev. Dr. McCandlish, of Omaha, with a very small membership, and Rev. George B. Smith was called to the pastorate and filled their pulpit very acceptably for several years.

Under the leadership of Rev. E. L. Clark, the missionary Baptist church was organized March 1, 1870, with seven members. The good old man continued pastor of his flock until the close of his honored life, which terminated in the early spring of 1873. Elder Clark was a great favorite with all the people, and was honored by the county with a seat in the last territorial and first state legislature. He was highly respected by all his colleagues and honored with a place on several important committees.

The *Nebraska Reporter* was first issued in the summer of 1871, by Charles Crony, shortly after the platting of the Harris, Moffitt & Robert's addition to Seward. Mr. Crony was here with his paper in time to take a hand in the county seat fight in our last campaign. Also in the railroad fight of 1872. The *Reporter* was a good fighter in its younger days. It was continually at war with the *Blue Valley Record* and with its contemporary, the *Atlas*.

About this time Cloyd and Ingham purchased the *Atlas* and tried to convert it into a mammoth literary paper, which proved a splendid failure. Later Prof. Ingham withdrew from it and Mr. Cloyd converted it into a Democratic paper, and so it remained during the remainder of its romantic career, which terminated in 1874.

About this time the *Reporter* fell into the hands of Thomas Wolfe, and under his guiding hand it improved its fighting qualities. Born in times of excitement, its chief joy was to have a hand in all political and sectional strife. Its life was a vigorous one. It came to stay, and was ever ready to give or receive the hardest of blows, and like all vigorous papers, had the warmest of friends and the most bitter enemies.

Its contemporaries, the *Atlas* and *Record*, had given up the ghost, and left it master of the field for a little season, but its rest was of

short duration. In February, 1877, W. S. Walker, a peculiar and erratic character, emerged from his mountain home, and started the *Seward Advocate*. The two papers soon found occasion to declare war, and they kept the air fairly blue. Notwithstanding both papers were Republican in politics, they were out of their element unless they were in the midst of a fight. In June, 1879, J. H. Betzer bought the *Advocate*, and rechristened it with the name, *Blue Valley Blade*. From the first the *Blade* seemed to have both edges sharp, and was prepared to cut a wide swath.

The bright glimmer of the *Blade* had about the same effect on the *Reporter* as the shaking of a red rag in the face of an angry bull. It seemed that both these papers were born to fight, and fight they must. Mr. Wolfe retired from the *Reporter* in 1882, and F. G. Simmons became the manager, when the hatchets were buried, and these two bright and valuable papers have found more congenial and profitable employment than scratching for each other's eyes, in working for the interests of Seward, the county, and the state. They have each made for themselves a splendid record in the later years. There have been several other attempts to maintain newspapers here, but none have succeeded until H. E. Maclellan started the *Seward Democrat* during the campaign of 1884. It seems to have good staying qualities.

In the winter of 1876-77, Rev. Mr. Haw made a futile attempt to start a Democratic paper, and again in the winter of 1881-82 James Brinkerhoff tried the same experiment, but failed.

Under the leadership of Rev. Mr. Skaigs, a class of the M. E. church was formed in the summer of 1867, but we fail to find the records of the same, and consequently all that we are able to say of the matter is from personal recollection. We remember that our young friend Skaigs was a wide-awake young fellow, and worked faithfully for his little flock. The next important epoch in the history of the M. E. Church, was under the pastorate of Rev. Combs (now deceased), in about the years 1874-5. When their church edifice was built, our friend Combs was a zealous and fearless worker in the vineyard, and his church flourished remarkably under his pastorate. Among the noble men that have honored the pulpits of Seward through so many years, there are none that more surely won the affections of the whole people than Brother Combs, and his early re-

moval from the labors of life was keenly regretted by all that knew him. In connection with the building of the M. E. church, there was a peculiar character who certainly deserves more than passing notice. The person alluded to still lives, and is a member of this community and the church, but her life is so secluded that she is almost lost to the world, and but few of the present membership of the splendid congregation that worship within the walls of the edifice know of her existence, much less of her sacrifices in behalf of the church she so dearly loved. We are apt to forget our benefactors when we have become independent of them, but inasmuch as the business of the church is labors of love, we suggest that it would be well that the church should call to mind the debt of gratitude it owes to Mother Herrick in her old age. The principal part of all her worldly goods were freely laid upon the altar of the church, and were used to build its walls, and now she is living under its shadow in poverty, and we fear in sad neglect.

Great progress was made in town and county from the time of the completion of the Midland Pacific road in March, 1873, until mid-summer, 1874, when the grasshopper scourge fell upon us. The summer of 1874 was dry and well suited for the development of grasshoppers, much more so than for a vigorous growth of vegetation.

It is an old saying that calamities never come singly, and it was so with us that memorable year. In the early days of July it was exceedingly hot, and the wheat crop was seriously injured, so that the yield was light, and the quality was very poor; thus a very large slice of profits was clipped from each side of the wheat crop. Wheat at that time was the main dependence of our farmers, and they felt the loss seriously, and a general stagnation of business was the immediate result; this loss we could have borne, but in the hour when "we thought not," an invading army came on the wings of the north-west wind. The sun almost refused to give her light at noonday. The whole heavens were a living sea of insect life. As far as the eye could penetrate the skies, there seemed scarcely room for another hopper. They had come a long distance and were hungry and they proposed (like all hungry tramps) to dine with us. We were not pleased with our guests, but little did they care. They came for corn, and they took what we had, and made dessert of our garden truck, such as cabbage, turnips, onions, and in fact about every living plant, and finished by each taking a chew of green to-

bacco, *i. e.*, if the few tobacco patches furnished each a chew, at least they took the last vestige of it, and our observation showed that they all spit tobacco juice, or something like it.

Of this we are sure, they are the worst lot of tobacco chewers we have met. Those who never saw a swarm of grasshoppers can form no idea of the immensity of their number; we should judge Seward county cannot produce the same heft in cattle in fifty years as would these insects weigh that foraged on our fields, meadows, and gardens in those memorable days of August, 1874. This calamity fell like a wet blanket on all interests in the county, not only in Seward county, but the whole West.

Great numbers of our people were very poor, and the loss of a crop was virtually losing their all. Lands depreciated in value, and all classes of personal property were a drug in the market, except grain, of which we had none to sell, and hardly half enough for home use. Hogs were sold as low as one and one-half cents per pound, and slow sale at that.

Quarter sections of land that would now readily bring \$4,000, were begging for a market at \$300 to \$400. Destitution and want stared the people in the face, and had it not been for kind people in the old states, the suffering would have been fearful to contemplate. Thousands of noble men and women came to the rescue, and sent of their stores food, clothing, and fuel for the relief of the people, and right here it is fitting that we should acknowledge the important part the railroads had in this work of relief. They generously brought thousands of tons of coal, and millions of pounds of merchandise to the very doors of these famishing people without money and without price, and in those dark hours of sorrow they earned the lasting gratitude of all concerned.

The well-to-do people of our own county and state were divided into two distinct classes. One class, and we are happy to say the larger class, were ready and anxious to do all in their power for the relief of their less favored neighbors. Many of them gave freely of their own scanty store of money, food, and clothing, and organized relief associations, and used their influence with their eastern friends, and denied themselves of ease and comfort to save others from cold and hunger. These people are entitled to the gratitude of all recipients of their good favors.

Then the other class are entitled to remembrance, but in a different way. We mean the vultures that were not only blessed with plenty, and ought to have been anxious to give of their bountiful store, but instead of that, they were ever on the alert to steal from famishing children and helpless widows what better people were sending to them. We speak what we know, for it was our fortune or misfortune to be brought into very close relations with thousands of the suffering, and we well remember what a fight we had to keep these vultures at bay. There were scores of them who richly deserve to have their names published, that they might enjoy the just execration of mankind. Their names should be covered with everlasting shame.

During the year 1875, everything pretty much was at a standstill, both in business circles and with the farmers. The railroad lands that had been purchased were nearly all abandoned, and hundreds of homestead entries were shifted off at whatever they would bring, and a feeling of despondency was brooding over all our land. Many fields were permitted to grow up to tall weeds.

A mortal dread of a return of our implacable enemies was imbedded in the minds of the people, and the best of them were cogitating in their minds as to whether they had not made a mistake in coming to Nebraska. Some brave spirits were able to look through and beyond the gloom to brighter days, and such did all they could to encourage people to hold their lands.

Fair crops blessed the faithful efforts of the husbandmen, and hope revived, and in the spring of 1876 things began to move again as in other years. New people began to come forward and occupy the vacant places.

Some valuable improvements were made during the summer and fall in town and county. Walker's opera house and one or two other brick blocks were added to the permanent structures in Seward. The Midland road had been graded to York in the summer of 1875, but no track was laid until the summer of 1877.

Grasshoppers visited us again in 1876 in great numbers, but they came a little later in the season; and while the devastation wrought was great, it was not so complete as before. They left us a sufficient amount of corn with which to tide over. Our small grain was fairly good that year, and it was secure, and our people were able, with close pinching, to get through the winter without assistance. The centen-

nial year brought many new people into the county, who were attracted by our cheap lands, and generally they were men of more means than emigrants of former years, and they began making more extensive improvements in the way of building better houses, building barns, fencing pastures, introducing the tame grasses, bringing in improved breeds of cattle and horses, planting trees, forest and fruit. One special event of this season was our centennial celebration on the 4th of July. This was the most notable gathering that had ever met in the county, both in numbers present and in the general interest manifest. At least five thousand assembled to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of our independence, and it comprised much more than half the entire population of the county. All the people took hold of the matter with an enthusiasm that was truly commendable, and we think that celebration is worthy to be marked as an epoch in our history.

Now it becomes a painful duty to record the most sorrowful event in all our history. Thus far no tragic event had occurred to mar the peace of our people. We had been noted for sobriety, industry, and general good behavior, notwithstanding we were drawn together from so many localities in our own country and foreign lands. With all our diversified peculiarities, and with all our different, and in many cases antagonistic, interests, no human blood had been shed in all our borders until the sad event of which we now write. One beautiful morning in the month of May, while all nature was smiling with gladness, and our little city was basking in the sun, enjoying the fragrance of the opening buds of spring, there breaks upon our ears the astounding news that a man, *a neighbor*, had been murdered. A chill of horror ran through the community as the news rapidly spread that Nathan Clough was the victim, and that he lay in the loft of the Blue Valley House barn wrapped in a bloody mantle of death. Suspicion was fastened upon various characters who harbored around the hotel, and a close surveillance was kept upon many while the coroner and his jury were trying to fathom the mystery.

The air was filled with rumors, and the people were almost wild with excitement. The jury was in session for about nine days. Meantime the excitement spread from Seward throughout the county, and then to the uttermost bounds of the state, and far into adjoining states, and it was the absorbing theme of conversation everywhere through-

out the country. The newspapers were full of it. The pleasant sunshine of that morning was turned into a dark cloud that hung like a pall over our fair city. There was apparently an instantaneous suspicion arising in the minds of the people far and near that the foul deed was committed by the brother of the deceased. It seemed to float in the very air, without the aid of the telephone. The business men of Seward were wisely cautious of their words, but the women and children would indiscreetly say, upon the spur of the moment, "It's nobody but Warren Clough." People from far in the country would come in and whisper, "I believe it's Warren Clough." Traveling men on the cars would read in a daily paper of the murder in Seward, and they would exclaim, "It's Warren Clough." Without evidence, or in advance of evidence, it was whispered into the ears and hearts of thousands of persons that Warren Clough was the murderer of his own brother. We confess that the impression darted through our mind unbidden, and entirely without evidence, and fastened itself upon us so firmly that we have never been able to shake it off. Why it was so it is impossible to explain. The jury traced every shadow to its substance, or until it entirely disappeared in the mist, and finally fastened the crime where the multitude had placed it without evidence. Warren Clough, after a long and tedious trial in another county (York), was convicted and condemned to death, which sentence was commuted to imprisonment at hard labor for life. We hope the jury acted only on evidence, and not preconceived impressions. Now long years have passed, and Warren Clough has become an old man. His punishment has certainly been severe. He was convicted entirely on circumstantial evidence or impressions. We are not certain which had the most weight. Is it not time to remember mercy? We do not know whether it would be a mercy to restore him to the world, considering that his friends and property are gone, but, should he desire it, would it not be proper to give him the last few days of his life to enjoy freedom? Let us remember the sentiment of Pope's universal prayer, "That mercy I to others show, that mercy show to me."

The year of 1877 brought several changes of importance, and marked a new era in the development of the county. The Midland Pacific railroad passed into the hands of the B. & M. company, the road pushed on to York and the town of Utica was founded.

Among the first settlers of Utica we mention Hon. G. A. Derby, who settled on a homestead, a little to the north and west of the town, in 1872, and was among the first to commence improvement on the great prairie between Seward and York. Mr. Derby made very creditable improvements for that early day, and his house was the genial home of many a weary traveler, it being the only stopping place between Seward and York. He was a wide-awake man, and as soon as the railroad was assured, he projected the town of Utica. He saw at a glance that the rich farming country that surrounded the place must of necessity have a trading point, and he went to work with that energy and determination that always brings success, and the flourishing town is the result. Mr. Derby has always been to the front as an enterprising citizen of that part of the county, and has used the best energies of his life for its development and advancement. Utica has grown and prospered until it has become an important village, with many fine business houses, good schools, commodious churches, and many excellent residences, with an intelligent and busy population, and is the third town in the county in population, business, and wealth, beautifully situated, surrounded by a splendid farming country on all sides. Of her business interests we will speak more fully in a future chapter.

Howard M. Colman was also one of the first to settle on a homestead in the locality of Utica. The date of his settlement was May, 1871. Mr. Colman has been thoroughly identified with the improvements and progress of Utica. We remember him when he was a homesteader and had to haul wood from the Blue river to keep the family from freezing. We are happy to note the fact that he don't have to haul wood now fifteen miles to keep the wife and baby warm.

George Liggett, who commenced the grain trade in Utica in the fall of 1877, took up a homestead on Lincoln creek in 1869, and after one year's enjoyment of a farmer's life, he moved to Seward and tried his hand at making harness for a time, when he thought he could see wealth or glory in Antelope county, and removed to that county; after securing all the glory he needed he gave up the idea of getting wealth there, and returned, like a sensible man, to Seward, and studied the art of buying grain, and after graduating among the grain-buyers of Seward, commenced the practice of his profession at Utica, with marked success, as his ample possessions demonstrate.

Oscar Ragan, another of the first business men of Utica, settled on Lincoln creek as early as 1867. Mr. Ragan commenced the grain trade on a small scale in the fall of 1877, and has gradually grown rich, and may fairly be counted as one of the rich and prosperous men of the county. We must tell a little story of him that demonstrates some of the hardships of pioneer life. Mr. R. was very poor when he located on the homestead, as were all the neighbors. Many times the entire settlement would get very short of provisions, and at this time Oscar's family had been without meat for a long time. The elk and antelope had taken their departure, but Oscar thought he must have meat, and he went hunting. A long day's tramp, and nothing could be found except a chicken-hawk. Oscar said to himself: "We're out of meat. I don't know how hawk will taste. I have heard of politicians eating crow. Guess it's all right." So he takes the hawk home, and it was prepared for the next day's dinner. A nice hawk pie was prepared, and, as Oscar was a generous soul, some of the neighbors were invited to the feast. The good wife had made all things ready, and the guests were seated at the table, with Oscar in his place at the head of the table. Each person was served with a plate of the dainty dish, and all commenced eating at the same moment. One mouthful partly swallowed, and Oscar, with a heaving breast, found it necessary to find the way to the door. The hawk showed great discontent in his stomach. Oscar was quickly followed by his guests, but they were not going to see what was the matter with Oscar. They each had serious business interests of their own to look after. Oscar has always, since that dinner experience, wondered how it can be that men can eat crow without wincing, as so many politicians have to do. He is quite sure that he never hankers after a hawk pie.

Thomas Standard and Joseph Jones have the honor of erecting the first building on the new town site, and opened the first stock of merchandise in the month of August, 1877. These enterprising gentlemen were homesteaders, each settling, in the year 1870, on lands in the western part of the county. We remember Mr. Standard, at an early date, as being the Standard thresherman of the county, and we are glad to be able to say that he proves Standard in all his undertakings. These men have proved to be quite successful as farmers and business men, and have helped, in no small measure, in building

up Utica. George Goodbroad erected the first hotel in the same month, and Fritz Beckord opened a lumber yard at the same time. In the month of September Messrs. Goechner & Wilkins opened the second store, and C. C. Turner opened a blacksmith shop in October. Wm. Alexander also opened a grain house, and some other business interests were inaugurated during the same fall, and Utica at once assumed quite respectable proportions as a business center. It enjoyed from the beginning a large grain trade, and what is peculiar, her grain dealers have been prosperous in a marked degree.

We believe that Rev. C. E. Phinney was the first resident minister. He located in the neighborhood in 1874, and organized a Protestant Methodist church. However, a class of the M. E. church was organized in 1872, at what was known as the Kincade school-house, three miles east of town, in the summer of 1872, by Rev. A. J. Folden, which class was re-organized by Rev. G. M. Couffer, of Milford, and established its permanent quarters at Utica in 1878. The church was quite prosperous and built a very creditable church edifice in the season of 1881. They had previously built a parsonage. The United Brethren church was organized in the summer of 1873 by the Rev. E. W. Johnson (now an honored presiding elder in his denomination), at the Oliver school-house. Rev. Father C. J. Quinn established a Catholic mission about the spring of 1880, and they now have a very neat house of worship. Miss Clara Derby taught the first school in that section of the county, in 1873, and Miss Rosa Hartley was the first teacher of Utica, in the spring and summer of 1878. The schools of Utica have kept pace with other improvements, and they now have a first-class graded school and a commodious building, with ample accommodations.

We can hardly forego telling how and when we got our impressions of the great prairie upon which the fair little city stands.

Early in the summer of 1864, while yet a resident of Lancaster county, a project was set on foot to open a great freight road from the Missouri river leading through Lancaster (now Lincoln) and prospective Seward, and to the west. Uncle Jacob Dawson, of Lancaster, made terms with the Mormon freighters, who had established their outfitting headquarters at Wyoming, five miles north of Nebraska City, and led one of their great freight trains through Lancaster, and then secured our assistance as a pilot to conduct the train

over the unbroken prairies through Seward county, and to a western connection with the great overland trail to the mountains. We led the train in triumph as far as the mouth of Plum creek, a-half mile south of the present city of Seward. Here we had hoped to find an easy fording place, but when the trainmaster saw the river, he said that it would be out of the question, and a bridge must be built. So we summoned the entire neighborhood to our assistance, consisting of Wm. Imlay, R. T. Gale, David and Joseph Imlay, with Grandfather Imlay to watch the maneuvers and give words of encouragement, and with the help of sixteen stalwart young Mormon teamsters, we slashed down a hundred or more fine trees and built a log bridge and crossed the river with the huge wagons, and wended our way to the westward. Night overtook us on the great plain a little to the south and east of the future Utica. A corral was formed and supper provided, and it fell to our lot to be stationed as one of the outer pickets to guard the cattle. The night was exceedingly hot, and we were in our shirt-sleeves. A heavy thunderstorm was rapidly approaching. The heavens were all aglow with the flashes of lightning. The thunder drums began to play at a fearful rate. Only when the sharp flashes would light up the ghostly surroundings could a thing be seen. The very blackness of the darkness veiled all from our sight, when, all at once, a terrific peal of thunder, with stunning effect, stampeded the cattle, ninety-eight head of great steers, and they came directly toward us, with all the fury of a full grown cyclone. Few and short were the prayers we said, and we thought not of writing these reminiscences, but thought good-by to all this world, but fortunately for the reminiscences, when, like a solid wall, like a great avalanche, they had reached within twenty feet of us, there was a vivid flash that lightened up the whole heavens, and our white shirt, we suppose, caused the herd to divide, and they thundered by us on either side so close as to almost graze our shirt sleeves. We devoutly thanked God for that flash of lightning and the white shirt. We are free to acknowledge that we were badly frightened—so much so that it effectually stopped our growth, and perhaps that night's experience accounts for our diminutive stature.

It only took our party two days to get the cattle back to camp. The next morning the level prairie was a sea of water. It certainly would have convinced any unbeliever that it rained occasionally west

of Salt creek. When Uncle Jake Dawson, Mr. Imlay, and myself got rid of that Mormon train, we were fully satisfied with our experience in leading trains through the wilderness. We tried it no more.

In the forepart of July, 1878, a stranger from the state of Kansas, by the name of G. L. Monroe, was traveling through this neighborhood, and happened to fall into the company of Orlando J. Cassler, a resident of the south-western portion of this county. The two camped just west of the city on the river bank, on the afternoon of July 7th, and during the night, while a violent thunder storm was raging, Cassler murdered his comrade and new-made friend, sunk the body in the river, and took possession of the team, telling his neighbors that he had bought the team. Some of the citizens of the city happened to be fishing a day or two after the occurrence, and found the body floating in the river. The coroner's jury soon found a clue to the murder, and Orlando was arrested, tried, and convicted, and sentenced to be hanged on the 20th day of May, 1879. The black Friday arrived, and a great host of people gathered into the city from all the surrounding country, as word had gone out that the barracks would probably be torn down. The sheriff had taken what he supposed to be ample precautions for the protection of the barracks. He had placed quite a large number of deputies and policemen, properly armed with billies, around the barracks, and had constructed a barbed-wire fence around a space surrounding the building, which was denominated a dead line, and all the people were warned not to step over that line; but little did they heed the mandate. There seemed to be an inordinate desire to see the wretched man hung, and five or six thousand men, women, and children surged back and forth with an irresistible force, and just before noon some reckless fellow gave a whoop and a hurrah, and those barracks were scattered as if a cyclone had struck them in far less time than it takes to write a line of this paragraph. The sheriff saw in a moment that he was in the hands of the mob, to do the will of their good pleasure; their pleasure was to see Orlando hung, and if the sheriff was unwilling to transact the business in their presence they would do the work for him in his presence, and that right soon. So he assured the mob that the execution should occur in proper time, and that he did not need their help. The drop fell in due time, and Orlando J. Cassler paid to the full, as far as pos-

sible, the penalty of his crime, but the demoralizing spectacle of a public execution produced a bad effect upon our people, and brought out a spirit of lawlessness that barely missed producing another murder before the day closed.

We do not wish to mince matters, or in any way excuse the lawless spirit of many people on that occasion in tearing down the enclosure, but we would say that the governor was short-sighted, that provisions to maintain the dignity of the law were not made, and especially so when a like occurrence had happened at Minden only a short time previous. If the law is worth a place on our statute books, then when necessary use all the powers of the state to enforce it, and not allow lawless ruffianism to control.

We quote for the curious the last words of the doomed man: "Well, now this will finish Orlando Cassler's life. Behold the scaffold with Orlando Cassler standing on it here. This is the last of trouble and sorrow. I am sorry, gentlemen, that I have to die here, but there is a world above, where there is no trouble and no sorrow. Good-bye, gentlemen." His spiritual adviser was Rev. Shank, of the M. E. Church, who delivered an eloquent and fervent prayer.

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT—DEMANDS FOR ANOTHER RAILROAD—STRUGGLE BETWEEN FRIENDS OF THE UNION PACIFIC AND THE ATCHISON & NEBRASKA—THE A. & N.'S TRIUMPH—JONES CARICATURED—INJUNCTION AGAINST BONDS—OFFICERS VISIT BUTLER COUNTY TO SIGN BONDS—INJUNCTION MADE PERPETUAL—THE B. & M. SWALLOWS THE A. & N.—DEPRESSION AND DESPONDENCY—DUST STORMS—POOR CROPS—SEWARD SICK—THE TRAGEDIES OF 1880—BATES' SLAUGHTER PEN—THE BOWKER MURDER—SMALL-POX SCARE—SMALL-POX IN EARNEST—"A" PRECINCT TRAGEDY—MRS. PATRICK'S MURDER—TERRIBLE SNOW BLOCKADE—REVIVAL OF BUSINESS AND ADVANCE IN REAL ESTATE—MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE TO THE WEST, AND THE RESULTS—STOCK BREEDING AND FEEDING—NEW INDUSTRIES—TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION—F., E. AND M. V. R. R.—JONAH CAN'T SWALLOW THE WHALE.

So far as business was concerned everything moved along smoothly during the year 1878, but nothing of special note occurred, yet there was general advancement in the city and county in a quiet way. The Norval block and Goehner block were added to the brick structures, and they made quite an addition to the business houses of the city.

During this year the feeling began to gain ground with the people generally that the county needed another railroad, and negotiations were opened with the Union Pacific managers, and also with the managers of the Atchison and Nebraska company. The projected line of the Union Pacific was to connect Seward and the south-west with the Republican Valley line at Brainard, on very nearly the same line that is now occupied by the Northwestern road. The Atchison and Nebraska running from Lincoln, via Milford, through Seward, David City, and Columbus. Our people were divided in sentiment. In the city each project had warm adherents. Our Milford friends had suddenly been converted, and were no longer opposed to railroad bonds from principle, and like all new converts were very enthusiastic for the A. & N., and they were manfully backed by the dwellers up the Blue Valley. Outside of the city but feeble efforts were made in behalf of the U. P. project.

A great mass meeting was called in the spring of 1879, to determine which of the two schemes the people would most heartily endorse. The public square of Seward was filled with people. Hon. S. B. Gale, of Lincoln, assisted by Judge O. P. Mason, represented the A. & N. road, and Claudius Jones, of Seward, the U. P. Excitement ran high that day, and there were some scenes enacted that were not very creditable to our people.

Unfortunately the person representing the U. P. interests did not enjoy the full confidence of the people, and they looked at the railroad through the man, and unwisely refused to listen to his proposition, but hooted him down and caricatured him most scandalously, even carrying the joke so far as to bring the matter up in the Fourth of July celebration and representing him in a hoodlum procession as a mammoth hog.

The pressure was so very great that commissioners and all were swept along without let or hindrance, and the proposition in favor of the A. & N. Co. was submitted under the corporate name of the Lincoln and Northwestern. The amount of bonds asked for was seventy-five thousand dollars in county and precinct bonds, divided up in a satisfactory manner between the county and C, G, J, O, and I precincts. The propositions were carried in the county and all the five precincts by good majorities. The railroad was speedily constructed and the cars rolled up the beautiful valley to Seward early in October, when there was general rejoicing all along the line. Milford was now happy, as she was connected with the outside world in general, and with the county seat in particular, by rail. There were enemies of the road steadily and persistently at work, however. We will not attempt to divine their motives. It may have been the dear people that they were interested in, or it may have been spite work. Be that as it was, an injunction suit was commenced against the issuing and delivering the county bonds, and also those of C, G, J, and O precincts, leaving I to look out for itself.

It was the undoubted right of a citizen and tax payer in the county, or any precinct thereof, to commence an injunction suit, and have all matters thoroughly sifted in the courts as to the legality of the proposition, and also the legality of the election and the returns, and it was without question the duty of all officers having the custody of the bonds to obey the order of the courts, and let consequences take care

of themselves; but in this case there was some trickery that will hardly bear the light of day. It seems that the county clerk, Thomas Graham, was away from home, and the business of the office was left in the hands of his deputy. Perhaps it is not expedient to state all we know, yet it seems clearly proper that these historical sketches should be true, and we can hardly pass over this important matter without relating the whole truth so far as we know it.

It seems that there was an inordinate desire on the part of the deputy clerk (Ed. O'Keefe) and the board of county commissioners to evade the injunction, and in the night-time these persons took the seal of the county, and slipped away to David City in Butler county, and signed and placed the seal of the county upon the bonds there, and then returned to Seward and made their record of their proceedings as if all had been regular. What motives prompted these gentlemen to perform the important duties of their office in Butler county, the reader may judge for himself. It is sufficient to say that they left the way open for censure, and accomplished nothing except a long lawsuit, in which the injunction was made perpetual. There was talk that bribes had been used with certain parties, and that attempts were made to induce other prominent men to help along this bond scheme by large bribes. In fact, some individuals have told us that they had been approached by offers of large amounts if they would assist in carrying the scheme through to a successful termination.

As time rolled on, it developed that the people had been victimized, and that they had given seventy-five thousand dollars, or at least they had agreed by their votes to give that amount, for another B. & M. R. R. For a few months only did the A. & N. maintain control of the road when it had passed in its checks, and we all awoke to find ourselves sold, and with two B. & M. roads on our hands.

The competition given our people during the fall and winter of 1879-80 was noticeable, and was a great benefit to the farmers. The markets of Seward county that winter were about the best in the state. This had the effect of stimulating the business of the city, and a rapid growth was the immediate result. Scores of new buildings sprang up, and all went merry as a marriage bell in the spring of 1880. But when it became known that the B. & M. had swallowed its competitor, we all heard something drop, and it hurt most fearfully. One noticeable effect was that it reduced suddenly the number

of grain dealers from about a full dozen to two, and the competition in the grain trade of Seward became a thing of the past.

Seward became suddenly sick, nigh unto death. This change fell like a dead weight on all interests, and to further aggravate our trouble we had a series of dust storms during the spring. The weather was exceedingly dry, and heavy winds prevailed to such an extent as had never been known before. Great ridges of dust were carried from the fields and piled up along the hedges and fences like huge snowdrifts, some of which remain visible to this day. Crops were not satisfactory that season, and times were hard. Lands became a drug in the market again, and all classes of business languished, and there were more vacant houses in the city than at any time in all her history. Mechanics and laborers were compelled to seek employment elsewhere, and the city was wrapped in a mantle of gloom for a season.

The Windsor house had been commenced before the depression had fully set in, and it was fully completed during the following winter, but remained idle for a full year, as no one could be induced to open it under the circumstances.

The building of this branch of the B. & M. R. R. was of great advantage to some portions of the county. It made but little difference to Milford, Pleasant Dale, or the people of the north-western portion of the county whether the road was an Atchison & Nebraska or a B. & M. They wanted a railroad, and now they had it, and they were happy; but it made all the difference in the world to Seward. She had B. & M. roads to her full satisfaction, and she did not need any more in her business. What the city wanted was competition in freight, and this hope being deferred again had the tendency to make the heart sick.

However, this road has proved of great value to the county. It has added directly one hundred and thirty thousand dollars to the taxable property of the county, and has opened up four new stations, brought into life and activity three new towns, infused into Milford new life, and added largely to the value of the lands all along its line, and now is, after years of waiting, of great benefit to the city. Since the completion of the Northwestern, we now have three railroads for all practical purposes, whereas before we only had one, and so, as will appear further on, the building of the Northwestern was equivalent to giving us two new roads for most purposes.

During the financial depression we were doomed to other troubles that are most sickening to relate, but essential facts of history cannot be left untold. The year of 1880 could not pass without its tragedy. In B precinct, in what is known as the Bates school-house, there was a protracted meeting in progress, and there were some young men in the neighborhood who lacked the proper training, or at least had forgotten that the very genius of our government guarantees the privilege of worshiping God as seemeth good to us, and that no man may interfere with these sacred rights. They had on several occasions molested the meetings and were rather incorrigible in their efforts to break up the same, and we are of the opinion that they were not met with a Christian spirit by the church people, as the sequel proves. Perhaps had the admonition of Paul, "Overcome evil with good," been practiced on that dreadful night, it is quite probable that instead of a horrible tragedy there might have been good results.

It seems that the rough fellows who should have stayed away went armed with revolvers, and some of the church people had provided themselves with clubs, and at least one of them (William Bates) carried a revolver.

When people are anxious to get into difficulty they can always find an opportunity. As was expected, the belligerent feelings soon found vent in hot words, which were quickly followed with blows; revolvers were brought into play, and a scene of desperation ensued that was revolting to our civilization, resulting in the killing of William Bates, and so wounding Hilliard Thomas that he died of the wound. James Thomas also received a flesh wound in the hip; Israel Bates also had a flesh wound in the thigh, and Luther Bates received a heavy blow on the head with a shovel or spade. It seems that the Bates family and the Thomas family were not on friendly terms, and who may have been most to blame for their former trouble it is impossible to say, but in this horrible tragedy it is evident that in a degree at least both parties were at fault. The Bates family were of good repute as citizens, and were very zealous church people, but they had the fault of letting rash tempers get the better of them, and were quick to resent an insult or injury—rather too much so for followers of Him who taught us to do good to those who would despitefully use us. They did wrong in carrying clubs and revolvers into a Christian meeting in this land of law and order.

They had no right to do it. It was unchristian and unlawful and entirely unnecessary. If the unruly persons had shown themselves to be so incorrigible that kind words and Christian courtesy could not reach their case, it would have been easy to obtain the assistance of peace officers.

The Thomas family personally we know but little about, but of this we are certain, we have no words of excuse for any party that will go into a religious meeting for the purpose of disturbing it. The personal enmity of certain members of the congregation is no valid excuse for such outlawry, and however much the Bates family erred in their rashness, still it must be the just judgment of an unprejudiced world that the Thomas family and their abettors were the cause of this fearful catastrophe.

Just why this trouble has never become a matter of judicial investigation we are not able to say. It seems very curious to us that such a scene of lawless butchery, with such far-reaching consequences, should not be thoroughly sifted by the courts and the responsibility placed where it properly belongs.

Also in March, 1880, a bloody tragedy occurred at East Milford, which terminated in the murder of Samuel Bowker, by two brothers, Milton and John Granger. This difficulty grew out of a quarrel between the old man Granger and Bowker, in which Bowker knocked Granger down. Somehow Mr. Granger was dissatisfied with the marriage of his daughter, and this is supposed to be the beginning of the trouble. This had occurred some months before. Mr. Bowker was quite a pugilist, and was at all times ready to resent what he considered an insult or an injury, with his fist. He was some days after this fracas passing the store of the young Grangers, and was invited to alight from his wagon, which he promptly did, and pulled off his coat and announced himself ready for the two Grangers.

Some hot words were followed with blows, when Milton drew a revolver and shot twice at Bowker, when his antagonist knocked the revolver from his hands. Then John opened fire and fired five or six shots, two of which took effect, one striking near the shoulder blade and passing down the spine, which caused his death. The Granger brothers were arrested and put upon trial, when they pleaded guilty to manslaughter, and received a sentence of ten years in the state prison.

In the spring of 1880 there was a small-pox scare in Seward that

worked great mischief. In the southern part of the city a family were reported to be stricken with the dread malady. Physicians reported, after a thorough examination, that it was a genuine case of small-pox. This resulted in breaking up the school and creating almost a panic, which was a serious injury to all the business interests of the city. We have no right to dispute the judgment of skilled physicians in such matters, but there were some things connected with this matter that brought their views into discredit, and very many people think to this day that instead of small-pox the victim had the itch, and was rotting with it. It was reported that the patient broke away from the guards and left the town in hot haste.

This panic worked a hardship to the graduating class of that year. A goodly number had just finished their course of study and had fairly earned their degree, and while the examination was in progress the school was broken up and the class were robbed of the honors they had justly earned. In justice to one of the brightest classes that ever earned diplomas in our high school, some plan should have been adopted to provide its members with their diplomas.

In H precinct, in the winter and spring of 1882, small-pox did break out for certain and worked ruin to a large settlement. Many people died and many more were stricken, but by good nursing were saved from death. The county authorities furnished medical and pecuniary assistance, and kept a close surveillance, and it was confined to the one settlement. Drs. Hastings and Monteith were given charge of the patients, with proper police powers. This terrible scourge nearly ruined the settlement for a time. There were reported by Dr. Hastings sixty-two cases and seven deaths in all.

In June, 1882, a peculiar accident occurred near Marysville. A young man by the name of Mentz was plowing corn near the river bank. His team became frightened and by some means dragged the young man into the mill-pond, where man and team were drowned.

Scarcely had the excitement attending the horrible Bates tragedy died away when, in the spring of 1882, the same locality was called to witness another scene of horror and bloodshed. It was a most unfortunate occurrence that one neighborhood should be the scene of two such terrible catastrophies within two short years, but in justice to the people we can truthfully say that the masses of B and A precincts are just as worthy and law-abiding citizens as are to be found anywhere.

This last trouble grew out of a family wrangle, in which the father, mother, and children were at variance. Just who were most to blame for the beginning of the trouble nobody knows. Mr. Patrick and wife and some other members of the family were returning from Seward, and a quarrel arose on the way home, which resulted in the old lady being shot to death. It seems that several members of the family were mixed into the affair. Many shots were fired at the old man by the boys, and he fired several shots, one of which killed his wife and the mother of his children. There being some discrepancy in the evidence in regard to the condition of affairs, and the embroglio that led to the shooting, etc., the old man's life was spared, and he is now serving a sentence in the state's prison for life. The murder occurred in the first days of April, 1882.

In the month of February, 1881, this western country experienced a series of terrible storms of drifting snow. The wagon roads were all blocked, and railroad traffic was abandoned. Seward was eight days without mail. The loss of mail was a serious inconvenience, but was nothing compared to the want of fuel. In city and country the people were put to straits for fuel, and had not relief reached us just as it did, very much suffering would have occurred.

The year 1881 was rather dull and monotonous, but fair crops and a gradual advance in price once again revived the drooping spirits of the people, and as 1882 was ushered in there were brighter skies and cheering promises of better days, which put a new phase on all interests.

New people flocked in, property began to change hands freely, and soon prices advanced, slowly at first, but later, as the demand increased, prices ran up in many cases over a hundred per cent. Good crops in 1882 set things fairly booming, which continued to the fall of 1884.

Much valuable improvement was accomplished in both town and country. Prices of property reached the maximum in the winter and spring of 1884. After the presidential election in the fall of 1884, all property matters were at a stand-still. But few immigrants came among us, and great numbers of our people were violently attacked with western fever, and in the spring of 1885 multitudes pushed for the frontier. While this seemed to work to our disadvantage for a time, it will prove a great blessing to us.

It has now demonstrated in a measure the value of western lands for agricultural purposes, and thus practically expunged from the map the last vestige of the great American desert, which was such a bugaboo to us during all our younger years. It has helped to plant farms all the way to the foot of the Rockies, and scores and even hundreds of bright towns and cities to-day dot the great plains, where the most credulous thought a few years ago that white men would never attempt to make homes. This all adds stability and value to this region. Any and every improvement in the West can but add value to our homes and lands.

Since 1880 many individuals have turned their attention to feeding cattle and hogs, also to the production of the tame grasses.

Feeding is carried on quite extensively now, there being many herds fed in various parts of the county, and this industry adds largely to the value of our staple, the corn crop.

Timothy and clover are rapidly taking the place of the wild meadows, and blue grass that of the wild pastures. The soil and climate are especially well adapted to the production of grasses.

Within a few years, also, the honey bee is receiving attention, and honey is produced profitably on many farms, and the industrious little servants find our luxuriant meadows and cornfields just the place for them to thrive.

In the fall election of 1886, by popular vote the people determined to try township organization, and during 1887 we had a board of supervisors, consisting of one member from each of the sixteen towns and two members from the city. It is yet too early to form any just conclusion as to whether it will prove more satisfactory to the people than the commissioner system.

For some years our people had been looking anxiously for an opportunity to secure to the county a competing line of railroad. We had parleyed with the U. P. folks, but could get no definite answer from them, but finally when the Northwestern company were building their Lincoln branch, fortunately, Mr. Goehner, being a senator, while at Lincoln formed the acquaintance of some of the officials, and secured a hearing, which resulted in further negotiations, and finally a proposition was submitted to build during 1887 the F., E. & M. V. branch through our county, provided sixty thousand dollars in twenty year six per cent bonds were voted to the company. The proposi-

tions were submitted to the city and B, G, K, and M towns, as follows: City, \$15,000; B, G, K, and M, \$10,000 each, and L, \$5,000. The propositions were voted by large majorities in each township, and the road was completed in the fall of 1887 and regular trains running in connection with the great system in the East and North. We are happy to say that the road is well built in every particular, and we believe the people have made a good bargain in securing it. Since it has been opened for business there has been a marked change in the freight tariffs for the better. We are all satisfied that we now have a road that the B. & M. cannot swallow, for it would be like Jonah attempting to swallow the whale.

Now we have three railroads, because while two are under one management they give us additional outlets, and the new line will hold prices down just as well as if both its competitors were in different hands. The new road adds directly a large amount of taxable property to the county, opens up a vast new field for enterprise, and gives a new impetus to all classes of business.

Of the opening of four new stations we speak fully in other chapters; also of the improvements of 1887. We kindly refer the reader to the special papers on various subjects, institutions, and things; also the very interesting historical letters and personal notices of men and women. These all go as part of the history of our county.

CHAPTER IV.

CLIPPINGS FROM THE "NEBRASKA ATLAS," THE "BLUE VALLEY RECORD," AND
THE "NEBRASKA REPORTER."

We clip from the first number of the *Nebraska Atlas* the following communications and items which we deem of interest. The date is March 16, 1870:

"The new school-house is to be commenced shortly. We are greatly in need of the building, and hope the committee will prosecute the work with vigor. We trust it will be complete in time for the summer school."

This was our first frame school building, and it was afterwards sold, and is yet occupied as a residence by Hugh Hunter.

"There are nearly seven hundred dollars subscribed for the Baptist church edifice. This is most encouraging. Our citizens have taken hold of this matter in earnest, and there is no doubt but this summer will see the church edifice completed. Mr. Moffitt gives three lots on which to erect it."

"A petition is about to be started for the incorporation of our town. We hope to see every name on it."

In the same issue Judge J. D. Maine is credited with having raised on his farm in the Oak Grove settlement one hundred and fourteen bushels of corn to the acre, in the previous summer.

We select the following correspondence, which in the light of subsequent events, reads a little like prophecy:

"SEWARD, March 15, 1870,

"*Dear Atlas:*

"We are glad to welcome your appearance among us. It makes us feel as if we were getting out of the wilderness. We have been watching and waiting through a long night of anxiety, and now behold a 'sign of promise.' The darkness is giving way, the sky is brightening, the clouds that have overshadowed us are dis-

appearing, the day is dawning, and we rejoice. Now let us put our shoulders to the wheel of progress, and these waste places shall be made glad, this 'wilderness will smile,' and instead of the yelping of the coyote, or the hoot of the owl, or whoop of the wild man, as in days past, we will behold a city surrounded by thousands of splendid farms. Here we will see springing into life factories, seminaries, churches, and here will concentrate workshops and multitudes of merchants, and here will soon be heard the approaching tread of the iron horse. As the icy fetters of winter are giving way before a genial sun, we can already hear the sound of approaching footsteps from the far-off East, coming to find homes with us, and soon we shall hear the thundering tread of the mighty army that is coming to possess the land.

Truly,

"W. W. Cox."

We give also a letter from the county, which throws much light on the situation of things in general of that day:

"HICKMANVILLE, March 10, 1870.

"*Mr. Editor:*

"Presuming that the *Atlas* is to be published for the general information of the whole country, and the inhabitants of Seward county in particular, I propose to give your readers a few items from this settlement, the 'land of promise.' This place lies five miles north of Seward and seven miles from Ulysses, and derived its name from its large influx of Hickmans from the state of Iowa, John D. Hickman being the pioneer, who settled on his land (homestead) in 1868. Since that time immigrants have come so rapidly that all the government land in this immediate vicinity has been taken up, principally as homesteads. Some twenty buildings have already been erected, and several more are in course of erection.

"A school district was organized in the spring of 1869, with Thos. J. Poore as director. A school-house (sod) was built in the fall of that year, and a teacher hired, who commenced his labors January 1, 1870. We learn that the average attendance was twenty. A lyceum was also organized about January 1st, which was christened the Pioneer Lyceum, and which has been in full blast ever since, meeting weekly, and as far as I can learn, giving general satisfaction. In connection with the lyceum a paper was established (*Pioneer Banner*)

devoted to literature, fine arts, general news, and advertisements. The paper has been well and ably edited, but an exchange of editors being necessary according to the by-laws, a *Poore man* was placed in the editorial chair.

"Our school closed its winter term February 25th, with honor to both teacher and scholars, the exhibition—the first in the county—taking place on Monday, the 28th. The house was crowded, and everything passed off harmoniously, and to the entire satisfaction of all, Hon. W. R. Davis delivering the oration.

"Thrift and enterprise seem to prevail. No less than seven wells have been sunk within sixty days, with gratifying results.

"The weather for the past few weeks has been magnificent. Preparations will be made for seeding soon if the weather continues good. We are looking for an early spring.

"Plenty of good land to the north and west of us, but none in this immediate vicinity.

"And now, Mr. Editor, having given you our situation, we trust that your endeavors to establish a first-class county newspaper will prove successful, and that your career may be honorable and prosperous to yourself and those you represent, is the wish of your correspondent.
N."

Clippings from old numbers of the *Nebraska Atlas*: (Only part of the files have been preserved.)

Feb. 27, 1871—Addie, wife of J. P. Losee, died. Mrs. Losee leaves a husband and a wide circle of friends to mourn her loss. She had been married but a year.

Mrs. Abram Wallick also died same day. She was in her thirty-sixth year, and was the mother of thirteen children, and a very estimable Christian lady. Her husband, large family, and a host of friends mourn for her.

July 21st—Warren Clough's wedding occurred.

July 28th—The first brick dwelling is mentioned, D. C. McKillip's residence.

Sept. 1st—Notice is given of the appointment of W. W. Cox as statistical correspondent of the Department of Agriculture

Sept. 22d—John Robert's new farm house is looming up.

Nov. 3d—Notes the advent of a man, wife, and nine girls, and only one son-in-law.

The Presbyterian church is raised.

June 18, 1873—I. B. Compton has just finished the first tin roof in Seward. (The old post-office building, just west of the Butler block.)

Same date notes that fourteen Bohemians loaded up with building material for their houses, for Hamilton county.

The visit of Thomas Scott, the railroad king, and ex-Gov. Denison, of Ohio, is commented on.

July 2d—Four fights in the streets are mentioned.

Aug. 27th—The Seward grain-buyers get a rough overhauling.

Sept. 3d—\$5,000 school bonds were voted by a majority of twenty-one.

July 23d—State Bank is opened for business.

Aug. 13th—The purchase of the Presbyterian bell is noted. Also, that the telegraph is completed to Seward.

Dec. 10th—The Mohawk Lumber Co. have unloaded one hundred and seventy cars of lumber since March 1st.

Jan. 21, 1874—John N. Edwards is advertised for a free lecture at the church.

Jan. 1st—John Tressler and Carrie Olmstead are married.

Jan. 28th—The Baptist church was completed.

March 4th—The paper is badly nettled by the "crusade movement," and its columns are full of burlesque notices of them. They were evidently making it difficult for him to get his regular drinks.

April 22d—War was declared by Foucet's saloon against the crusaders, and a shameful scene ensued, which reflected no credit upon the town or its officers.

May 13th—The incoming Midland train ran over a pole-cat, and the passengers need no perfumery for some time.

May 20th—The injunction in the case of Monteith, in regard to planting trees on the square, is yet unsettled.

May 27th—Work on the M. E. church is being pushed with vigor.

May 29th—Leroy Moffit, the only son of Lewis Moffit, died. Leroy was a kind-hearted boy of about twenty years, and the loss is sadly felt by his parents, the friends of the family, and the young people, with whom he was a favorite.

June 3d—Little, Brock & Curson's elevator is under construction, the first in town.

July 15th—The drowning of Peter Gerken in Blue river, just

south of town, is noted. Also, that Pricheau's block is going up rapidly; that Seward has three select schools; and also, that the comet is visible and growing brighter.

From the *Blue Valley Record* of December 29, 1870, the first number ever issued, we extract the following interesting items:

The editor opens his paper with a three-column history of the county, in which he claims that Thomas West made the first settlement in 1859, and Daniel Morgan in 1860. He also credits J. L. Davison with being the third settler. This we are quite sure is a mistake, for we were at Mr. Davison's house on Salt creek as late as the autumn of 1861, a little to the south-west of the present town of Roca. Mr. Davison opened his old Camden ranch in the fall of 1862. James West located in 1860, near his brother Thomas; and Orin Johnson as early as 1860.

The editor says that Mr. Davison, with a man by the name of Ellis, located the territorial road from Nebraska City to Fort Kearney, but fails to state the time. We are quite sure this occurred in the spring of 1860, for we distinctly remember that Wm. E. Hill and party, of Nebraska City, went and built the old bridge on the Blue near Camden, just above the forks of the river and just by the county line, in the early summer of 1860. So it is quite probable that the road was then located. The editor says that Mr. Davison as he returned from this trip pre-empted a place near Camden, which was afterwards the ranch. This is undoubtedly correct, but pre-emptors did not have to so carefully watch their claims then as later. There were scarcely any to molest or make afraid. The changing the name of the county is noted, and the building of the West mills; Parker and Roper's mill at Camden, and the Milford mills are all mentioned, and the agricultural resources and possibilities of the county are discussed at length. It is noted that immigration set in earnest in 1866, and that all the eastern and northern states were represented, and it was claimed that the closing of the year 1870 found full three thousand souls in the county.

It was claimed that in the summer of 1870 there were broken over four thousand acres of land. The average crop report was noted as follows: wheat, twenty bushels per acre; oats, forty; corn, forty-five. Numerous groves had been planted. Osage, plum, cottonwood, and walnut were experimented with for hedges. Our soils

are described as rich sandy loam, largely composed of decayed vegetable matter and underlaid with a clay subsoil, and well adapted to withstand drouth. The peat deposits west of Milford are noticed. The surface and drainage of the county are favorably commented upon, and it was claimed that the waste lands were all in some other county, which was very correct. The water-powers of the rivers receive favorable mention. The red sandstone of Middle creek, and the white limestone in the southern part of the county, also the shell limestone of the north-east, are all noted. The indications of coal are mentioned.

The school system and first school are mentioned as follows :

“The county being so thinly settled, the formation of a school district was not to be thought of until the year 1867, when a few families combined and formed an independent school at Camden, and employed Miss Eva Hooker as teacher. This we believe to be the first school in the county.” In this the editor is mistaken. There was one up near West mills prior to this; also one at Seward as early as the previous winter. The people are represented as wide-awake in educational matters, and every individual was a committee of one to see that there was a school at the earliest possible date, and the result has been a healthy growth of educational interests in the young county. At the date of writing there are sixteen organized districts and one academical association. The teachers are highly commended, and also the patrons, for their zeal. The Southern Nebraska C. C. Academy, under the supervision of Hon. Geo. B. France, is spoken of as highly creditable to the county, and as already well spoken of abroad.

Three villages—Camden, Milford, and Seward—are all spoken of in the highest terms; a compliment is paid to the Nebraska *Atlas*, the pioneer newspaper of the county. Milford was well described as the county seat, and with two good water-powers and splendid possibilities.

In summing up the growth it is noted that from three families in 1862, now three thousand bright intelligent people have united their fortunes with the interests of the county.

The editor claims to have set squarely before the world the county of his choice, and he certainly did it; and even now we remember his efforts with gratitude, as he was so earnestly striving to make this wilderness to smile

CLIPPINGS.

"We notice a motto on a prairie schooner as follows: 'York county or bust.'"

"The apportionment of school money to Seward county for 1870 is \$1,452.42 to 782 scholars."

We also note from same table that whole number of scholars in Nebraska was 32,762.

The editor's salutatory contains these words: "Morally we shall labor for what we believe to be truth and justice, and shall act upon what we profess." Also it says: "We shall labor for the best interests of the republican party, not in a partisan spirit, but in a firm belief that it is the true party of progress and reform."

January 5, 1871.—"J. L. Davison, of Milford, has nearly completed the largest and best dwelling house in the county." The house spoken of is the square house just west of the bridge. It don't look the largest or the best in 1888.

"A number of prominent Seward people are in town (Milford) attending probate court." That reads strangely now.

"Wm. G. Keen is recommended for postmaster at Nelden, the new office on Walnut creek ten miles west of Milford."

January 12th.—"Fresh buffalo meat is on sale, at three cents per pound."

From a communication by Fair Play, it is claimed that Miss Agnes Baily (now Mrs. Cornelius West) taught the first school in Saline county, near the county line, and was patronized by citizens of both counties. This was in the spring of 1861. She also taught a school near West's mill in 1863. So she has the honor of teaching the first school of both Saline and Seward counties; and Miss Englehouft taught the West Mills school in 1865-66. In 1866 the residents of Camden district organized under the school law, bought the old building in Saline county and moved it over, and Thomas Graham taught during the winter of 1866-67.

The same article mentions that Thomas Graham has a fine orchard of apple and pear trees which are doing well, and that J. W. Lowrie has peaches of his own planting, probably the first in the county. It is also mentioned that Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Lowrie, and Mrs. Parker are making the prairies blaze with the variety and beauty of their flowers.

The county superintendent reports the school fund as follows:

Apportioned by state.....	\$1,452 42
Dog fund.....	193 38
Fines and licenses.....	100 00
Total.....	<u>\$1,745 80</u>

This was distributed to twenty-six directors as follows:

District No. 1, F. L. Roper, Camden.....	\$ 85 25
“ 2, Orin Johnson, West Mills.....	44 58
“ 3, Sam Englehaught, on West Blue.....	51 15
“ 4, W. J. Thompson, on Walnut creek.....	74 65
“ 5, Rev. T. M. Skinner, Milford.....	150 67
“ 6, Matthew Hackworth (east of Ruby).....	110 00
“ 7, Geo. W. Lesenby, north of Milford.....	44 58
“ 8, Wm. Anderson, west of Seward.....	87 32
“ 9, H. L. Boyes, Seward.....	125 92
“ 10, J. D. Thurman, on Lincoln creek.....	58 72
“ 11, W. W. Cox, north-west of Seward.....	44 58
“ 12, Thomas Poore, six miles north of Seward...	76 42
“ 13, C. C. Berkey, center of “ A ”.....	88 79
“ 14, E. C. Archer, west of Staplehurst.....	74 65
“ 15, wanting.....	
“ 16, A. Montgomery, north-west of “ N ”.....	78 19
“ 17, M. M. Neeves.....	62 28
“ 18, Sam Strohm, center of “ O ”.....	33 96
“ 19, Ed. Healy, south-west of “ P ”.....	56 95
“ 20, J. N. McCauley, center of “ M ”.....	58 73
“ 21, J. A. Reymer, south-east of “ I ”.....	53 42
“ 22, Wolsey Weyant, southern “ H ”.....	46 35
“ 23, Thos. Healey, northern “ N ”.....	55 19
“ 24, R. J. McCall, west of “ M ”.....	44 58
“ 25, Wm. Halle, south-east of “ N ”.....	34 10
“ 26, George W. Losy (Batchelor).....	51 65

This was done at Milford, January 7, 1881, by George B. France, superintendent.

The reader will please compare the above table with the present showing of the disbursements to ninety districts. It will be noticed

that Milford district at that date was the most populous and had the most money, while Seward was second.

In March, 1871, it is noted that James Iler was appointed postmaster at Pleasant Dale.

April 6th—The organization of the American Bible Society by Rev. McCandlish, of Omaha. Messrs. Birge Keyes, S. Brown, and D. C. Tift were elected executive committee. Culver and Parsons were appointed to care for the books.

Editor noting a visit of Geo. McKay, A. D. Sperry, and E. H. Noxon, of the north county, says: "Perhaps we can visit you by rail before another century." The century proved to be a short one. You can do it now, my friend.

April 13th—"S. W. Huston has received his appointment as postmaster at Oak Grove." Now a town.

April 20th—"Wm. Knight has received his appointment as postmaster at Groveland north of Seward."

May 4th—The return of a hunting party consisting of J. W. Hickman, Mr. Davis, Ellis Gandy, Elias Frane, and others, with three loads of buffalo meat. Their game was caught on the Kansas border, south of the Republican.

One hundred and eighty-nine immigrant wagons passed through Milford during April.

Tuesday, May 2d—The second term of the district court met. Judge Lake on the bench. Twenty-four cases on the docket.

We glean from the county superintendent's report for the year ending April 1st, the following interesting educational statistics:

Whole number of children of school age.....	1,247
Number attending school.....	697
Number of teachers employed (male).....	19
" " (female).....	20
Average daily attendance.....	457
Total amount paid teachers during year	\$3,717.00

We also glean from an editorial note that there are twenty school-houses—six frame, four log, seven sod, and three dug-outs. The editor remarks that the people must have an inordinate desire to educate the children, to face winter storms across the *blighted* railroad lands, long distances to a dug-out or sod shanty to school. *We think as much.*

From a Seward correspondent of June 1, 1871, that Seward is a bright town of three summers, and has about one hundred and seventy people.

We also note that at that time H. M. Coleman was principal of our school.

The organization of the Odd Fellows' Lodge, with L. G. Johns as Noble Grand.

Tuesday, June 13th—At Milford the Good Templars organized a lodge. Rev. J. M. Yearnshaw, Dist. D. G. W. C. T., assisted by D. W. Amesbury, of Lincoln. Officers elected were: J. L. Davison, W. C. T.; Miss Mattie Drake, W. V. T.; H. G. Parsons, W. R. Scribe; G. B. France, W. F. Sec.; Mrs. J. Laune, W. Treas.; F. J. Culver, W. Chaplain. Onaway was the name chosen.

Beaver Crossing was mentioned as "Nicholsville," and it is reported that work on the mill was progressing finely. Main street is being surveyed, and everything is bidding fair to make a youthful city in a short time.

June 15th—H. W. Parker's nomination as registrar of Beatrice land office is noted.

June 20th—"Corn stands about six feet high in the Blue valley."

July 6th—"Jeff Stevens, a resident six miles north-west of here, was found dead under a load of overturned lumber, about four miles east of town, near the bridge on Middle creek. Mr. Stevens leaves a wife and ten children to mourn his loss."

The June apportionment of school moneys shows \$2,021.10, divided among forty districts.

We also notice that in this apportionment Seward leads with \$132.90, and Milford takes the second place with \$125.25. Fourteen new districts had been formed since January.

This number contains a sharp letter from "Well Wisher," on the county seat embroglio. Also a long editorial on a newly discovered coal mine, which it was claimed had been found by Mr. Stockton, forty-seven feet below the surface, and Mr. S. claimed they had bored four feet and six inches into solid coal.

July 27th—Milford is announced as a money order office.

August 10th—Dr. Woodward is announced for a lecture. Subject: "Immateriality of the mind and its relation to the body."

August 19th—The *Record* gives some heavy hits at the Seward liars for reporting small-pox at Milford.

August 24th—Gold is quoted at \$1.12.

Same date, we find the report of a railroad meeting at Camden, W. C. Scott, chairman, and Ed. Healy, secretary. Judge Hooker and Gen. Vifquain offered the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, We, citizens of Seward, Saline, York, Hamilton, and Hall counties, have been fraudulently deprived of the benefits that might have arisen out of the construction of the B. & M. R. R. on their original survey; and

WHEREAS, We settled along the line with the full understanding that the road should be built on said survey, according to act of congress, donating to them half our national inheritance; and

WHEREAS, The said corporation is assisted by Nebraska politicians, in its schemes to plunder the people,

Be it resolved, That we pledge our sacred honors, without any regard to party ties, to send to oblivion by the strength of our ballots any man that comes before us for office who is in any manner connected with said corporation.

Resolved, That we authorize S. M. Boyd to commence proceedings in Nebraska and at Washington against said B. & M. R. R. Co. for the purpose of compelling them to build a line of railway on their original survey, or that they be deprived of the lands received under this pledge.

Resolved, That the people of the United States, looking for locations in Nebraska, are hereby notified that we hold the purchase of said railroad lands to be a dangerous bargain for the purchaser.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in all Nebraska papers, and in three in Iowa, and at least two in Illinois.

Resolutions adopted unanimously.

It was a swindle on the people of this and western counties, to give up half their lands to the rapacious corporation, and then not get a mile of the road.

Sept. 7th—The county commissioners order an election on location of county seat, and the editor gives them a terrible scolding.

Report of the election on the new constitution. At this time there were seven precincts, as follows:

Milford, for constitution.....	122	Against	0
Walnut Creek " 	37	" 	0
Beaver Crossing " 	36	" 	1
Oak Grove " 	33	" 	0
Camden " 	30	" 	0
Seward " 	68	" 	8
North Blue " 	25	" 	3
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total.....	358	Total.....	12

First number of Nebraska *Reporter* is received, and is unfavorably commented on, on account of harsh epithets and coarse language used.

Oct. 5th—S. R. Douglas caught a coon.

Oct. 19th—The *Record* has heard of the county seat election, and has its war paint on.

Oct 25th—"County commissioners have re-districted the county into eight precincts, as follows: Townships nine and ten, range one, form Beaver Creek; townships eleven and twelve, Lincoln Creek; township twelve, ranges two and three, North Blue; township eleven, ranges two and three, Seward; townships nine and ten, range two, Walnut creek; townships nine and ten, range three, Milford; townships nine and ten, range four, Camden; townships eleven and twelve, range four, Oak Grove."

The editor takes a ride over to Beaver Crossing, and finds the new town flourishing. Ross Nichols, Daniel Millspaw, Roland Reed, John E. Fouse, McCauley, John Leonard, and Osborne, are mentioned as thrifty farmers. The new mill of Mr. Smith is highly spoken of. Thomas Tisdale's store is noted as one of the best store buildings in the county.

Oct 26th—The election of officers of the county agricultural society, at Seward, is noted as occurring on the 16th inst., when W. W. Cox was elected president; Henry Wortendyke, vice president; James A. Brown, recording secretary, A. L. Strang, corresponding secretary; Robert McCrossan, treasurer; directors—E. B. Shafer, J. W. Lee, George W. Standard, and Thomas Graham.

Nov. 30th—There is a long correspondence from Seward about the court-house location, wherein Croney, Williams (O. T. B.), and Ellsworth, are discussed at large by Mortimer. Wm. Hornburg, one of

the commissioners, also gets a rub. At that time there was a struggle between Harris on the one side and Cloyd on the other as to where the court-house should be located. We note in the commissioners' proceedings of Nov. 21st, that a resolution passed the board by the votes of Imlay and Hornburg to accept the proposition of W. C. Cloyd, to place the court-house on block 35 in Cloyd's addition, just west of the M. E. church, provided a good title to the property should be made to the county without expense. This resolution must have been re-considered at some other and later meeting, for the court-house evidently was not placed on that block.

Dec. 7th—Notice is given that a lodge of Good Templars will be instituted at Beaver Crossing, Dec. 16, 1871.

Dec. 14th—Contains a report from County Superintendent France, from which we glean that during the year 102 teachers had been examined, seventy-four of whom obtained certificates, sixty third grades, and fourteen second grades; fifty-two were employed during the year. Superintendent's salary, \$200. A healthy growth and improvement is noted, and many new school-houses were erected. An appropriation is recommended for charts, globes, and other fixtures for the schools.

Jan. 4, 1872—The railroad bond proposition gets an overhauling by the editor.

Jan 11th—There was a wide-awake meeting at Beaver Crossing, wherein the bond proposition receives the following send-off:

Resolved, That the county commissioners have disgraced themselves in the eyes of the tax-payers, etc., etc.

Resolved, That this scheme to vote bonds is to aid a monopoly, a one-sided railroad affair, a disgrace to the people, and a binding curse upon our county, etc., etc.

This interesting document was signed by W. J. Thompson, T. H. Tisdale, and Daniel Millspaw, committee.

Also notices that Col. Vifquain will stump the county against bonds. Bond meetings, pro and con, will be held throughout the county.

"Monday last a crowded house voted unanimously against bonds. A committee, consisting of W. H. Reed, D. C. McKillip, P. J. Goodrich, Ed. Healy, and Cummins, were appointed to hold meetings for defeat of the bonds."

The burden of the song for all the weeks prior to the election day, February 22d, is down with the bonds, and on that day they downed them.

We notice among the writers and speakers that were conspicuous in opposition to bonds, was Rev. T. N. Skinner.

Result of the election is noted as follows:

Milford, for bonds.....	5 votes.	Against bonds.....	147
Camden "	6 "	"	138
Walnut Creek "	10 "	"	130
Beaver Creek "	2 "	"	135
Seward "	232 "	"	3
North Blue "	136 "	"	0
Oak Grove "	47 "	"	60
Lincoln Creek "	109 "	"	9

Total vote..... 540

Total622

Majority against, 82.

This ended the first chapter in this desperate sectional struggle, with Seward the under dog.

March 7th—The first issue of the *Beaver Tribune*, a semi-monthly paper at Beaver Crossing, is noticed. This was published by V. W. Wilson & Co.

March 11th—A mass meeting of the people of Camden is held, in which the county commissioners are handled without gloves for disfranchising Camden precinct in the bond matter. It has always been supposed that a young Seward lawyer stole from the clerk's office the returns from Camden precinct, and when the canvass of the vote was made, there were no returns from Camden, so the commissioners felt obliged to ignore the Camden election, and this Camden mass meeting was ready to take up arms, as it seemed that ballots had failed.

Rev. T. N. Skinner heads an epistle to the people, "Ballots or Bullets."

April 4th—Seward correspondent says another bond proposition will be submitted; and also says the commissioners will dismiss their county attorney, because he is such a consummate liar that they can't believe a word he says; and he is also accused of taking fees on two sides of a case.

Milford money order office shows business for three months to be :

Orders issued.....	\$2,653 38
Orders paid.....	961 61
Amount deposited.....	2,140 00
Total business.	<u>\$5,755 19</u>

April 4th—Also has the minutes of a mass meeting in Seward to express their abhorrence of the idea of stealing an election. The meeting resolved that the people of Seward firmly believe in a free and untrammelled election, and in jealously guarding the purity of the ballot box ; and

“*Be it further resolved*, That we here assembled express our disapprobation of any scheme or plan for the purpose of defeating the expressed will of the county at the late election ; and further we are desirous to know the truth or falsity of the charges preferred, and will heartily engage in any movement to ascertain who are the guilty parties, whether in Seward, Camden, or elsewhere, and to bring them to merited punishment.” Signed by J. N. Beaty, Chairman ; T. J. Hamilton, Secretary.

April 18th—Appears a clipping from the *Atlas* on the bond election, in which Prof. Ingham says: “Blessed, yea, thrice blessed, are the peace-makers, and most benign would be the labors of any, if only successful in allaying that bitter animosity and uncompromising hostility which excites the different sections of our county. This spirit of evil which pervades our county, will, we fear, unless exorcised by a gentle spirit of *forbearance* and *reconciliation*, become so powerful as to utterly ruin the highest prospects of the whole county.” The editor of the *Atlas* takes occasion to charge in this article the blame on the older settlers of both sections, and charges them with being narrow-minded, etc. This waked up a hornet’s nest, and the learned professor soon heard a tremendous buzzing around his ears, and in a subsequent issue he takes everything back, and gets down on his knees in good shape to the old settlers ; not only asks forgiveness, but attempts to “bring forth fruits meet for his repentance,” and pitches into Milford like a wild cat, and so the battle rages.

May 2d—It is noted that the commissioners have divided Lincoln Creek, Oak Grove, and Camden precincts, so that there are now eleven. Also, it is noted that Prof. Ingham has retired from the

Atlas, and assumed the role of instructor. It is also noted that the History of Seward County, by O. T. B. Williams, is just out, and was printed at the *Record* office, which has disgusted many of the Seward people. The county superintendent reports thirty male and twenty-eight female teachers employed, and an expenditure of \$4,721.95 between April 3, 1871, and April 1, 1872. Whole number of scholars were 1,731. Approximate number of inhabitants, 5,203.

May 9th—The erection of Tuttle's new hotel is noticed in the Seward correspondence; also the near completion of the Presbyterian church edifice; also a call for the corporation election of the town of Seward; also that Miss Lizzie McKillip (Mrs. Buck) is engaged for the summer school.

May 16th—It is noted that the injunction suit against commissioners in the railroad bond case is made perpetual by Judge Lake, and everybody is satisfied.

June 13th—Notice of a new railroad bond proposition is given. The Seward correspondent calls Hon. Wm. Inlay the county commissioners. The same gentleman, whoever he was, predicted that the same blunderers would in like manner come to grief again. He remarks, no one has any idea that they will carry. The drowning of Miss Hattie Tift is commented on. She was partially insane. Croney's sale of the *Reporter* is noted, and of Prof. Ingham assuming the post of editor again.

July 4th—The *Record* says, in flaming head-lines: "Stop the reaper and protect yourselves," thereby meaning that they must stop their work and go and vote against bonds again.

July 11th—The second bond election is reported, in which the famous "Mortimer" is buried under an avalanche of votes, bonds having carried by a majority of 123 votes. It puzzled the editor to know how Seward could swell her vote 81 since last February.

September 19th—The division of Beaver Creek precinct is noted.

September 26th—The removal of D. C. McKillip is commented on.

October 3d—Specimens of peat from Walnut creek are examined and pronounced good.

October 10th—*Reporter* has again changed hands.

October 17th—Two wild deer were seen just west of Milford. We also quote: "The second annual fair at Seward was a success, with a fine display, especially of stock, and a large attendance."

December 5th—The *Record* announces the death of Horace Greeley, with a fitting eulogy. Mortimer says in same number that a scandalous story is afloat about one of our county officials. This must mean McPherson, county treasurer.

December 12th—A discovery of free lime, phosphates, and silicon, a vein twenty-two feet thick. This is on West Blue, in sections 7, 8, and 9, in town 9, range 2 east. The French leave taken by our county treasurer is reported, with a probable loss of five or six thousand dollars.

December 26th—The action of the county board in the removal of the treasurer, McPherson, and the appointment of Wm. B. Thorpe, is commented on.

January 9, 1873—It is noted that a silver-headed cane was voted to W. W. Cox, as the homeliest man in the county. The same paper notes the scalding of the child of Thomas Osborne on Lincoln creek; also the resignation of W. J. Thompson as representative; also the removal of E. L. Clark, Jr., from the Seward post-office, for embezzlement. Said defalcation is thought to be about \$2,000. L. G. Johns was appointed to the place. The apportionment of school money to Seward county is, to 1,701 scholars, \$3,690.07.

January 16th—Announcement of the election of D. C. McKillip, representative, to fill vacancy.

January 23d—School moneys apportioned among fifty-nine districts.

February 13th—It is mentioned that at the commissioners' meeting held on February 3d, the geographical townships were made into precincts, and were named from the first sixteen letters of the alphabet. The same issue mentions four marriages in Seward, viz.: Ethan Atwater, Walter Briggs, Mr. Spear, and Andrew Wright.

March 6th—The bill incorporating Seward is noticed by Mortimer, who also says that the railroad track is just being laid into Seward. This letter is dated March 4th. Mortimer made a mistake, as the track was complete and the cars reached Seward on the evening of March 1, 1873. He also notes that Rev. Rockwell preached his farewell sermon to the Methodist congregation.

April 10th—The editor publishes his valedictory.

We have looked through every page of the files of the *Record* from first to last, and it is our pleasure to say that the paper was a credit to the county and the state. While the editors worked manfully for

the interest of Milford in all her battles, yet they manifested a gentlemanly and courteous attitude towards all. We wish the *Record* had continued its publication. In quoting so liberally from its columns, we feel that we are giving bits of history, both interesting and profitable, and we hereby extend our warmest thanks to Mr. Culver for the use of his files.

The following items are taken from the *Nebraska Reporter*. We regret to say that the earlier files are only fragmentary, most of them are destroyed, but we are able to get from what we have at command some items of interest:

December 13, 1872—The Baptist church is up and nearly enclosed.

A letter from Shoe String Joe complains bitterly of the management of the Seward post-office. He says the P.M. is an inveterate novel reader and don't like to be bothered by people asking for mail.

January 4, 1873—A mush and milk sociable for the benefit of Rev. J. H. Rockwell was a success, and from fifty to sixty dollars realized.

Also, that homely man getting the cane is noticed.

The organization of the Seward Literary Club is noticed, of which V. Daniels was chairman, and in which Wm. Leese, T. L. Norval, H. C. Page, D. C. McKillip, T. F. Buck, J. W. English, and C. P. Dick each figured.

The New Year's address, by O. S. Ingham, is also given.

January 11th—Returns show a total vote of 396 in the special election, wherein D. C. McKillip was elected to fill vacancy in this legislative district. D. C. M. received 208 votes and there were three opposing candidates, viz., Elsworth Hamilton, T. J., and Campbell.

January 18th—The editor is impressed with the number of dead tom cats in the streets.

The marriage of E. M. Spear, of Seward, to Miss May R. Newland, of Rochester, N. Y., is noticed.

May 8th—The charter election of the town of Seward is reported as follows: resulting in the election of V. Daniels, Sam Stevenson, Herman Diers, Wm. Hays, and T. L. Norval, as trustees of the village for the coming year. There were 93 votes cast.

May 22d—The air is filled with grasshoppers, also that work is being pushed on Tishue's store, and the editor says we may well be

proud of such a fine building. Well, we were, but have got bravely over it.

The advent of Claudius Jones is welcomed.

May 29th—The new jail is nearly enclosed.

It is noted that the grasshoppers are doing some damage in a few localities.

June 12th—Sixty buildings in two months, by actual count.

June 26th—Ed. Ingham gets eloquent over a little street fight. We quote: "On the morning of the 21st of June the sun in unclouded splendor issued from the pearly portals of the Orient to pursue his daily journey through the shining concave heavens, past the lofty zenith, down to his purple, cloud-draped ocean couch, behind the western hills," etc.

July 3d—The M. P. R. R. depot and water tank are about completed.

Sept. 30th—The county fair is pronounced a success.

Sept. 4th—Says from one to two hundred loads of grain received daily, and threshing hardly commenced.

Feb. 1st, 1873—F. M. McPherson joins the editorial force of the *Reporter*.

The marriage of Ethan Atwater is noted.

The town council is scored for voting a hundred dollars to W. C. Cloyd for his pamphlet.

Feb. 13th—H. T. Clarke is building a bridge west of town on the river.

The city is full of strangers.

The organization of the Seward cemetery association is noted.

McPherson, our defaulting treasurer, receives encouragement and is assured that he has plenty of friends.

May 8th—The editor complains that the *Atlas* man calls him a lunatic.

Sept. 4th—Dick Norval is building a cosy cage for his prospective bird.

July 31st—School report from district number 9, with J. A. Brown director, shows 139 scholars in district; enrolled 66; present that day 14; average attendance 33.

The following was clipped from the *Toledo Blade*:

"Out at Seward, Neb., they build houses for editors in about eight

days. The editor of the *Reporter* gave an order for a residence to a building firm, and in less than two weeks the editor moved into the house, and his wife immediately presented him with a fine pair of twin babies. They do things up in a hurry in Nebraska."

The above clippings are not in their regular order, but they were jotted down from miscellaneous papers.

Nov. 15th, 1887—Total vote cast in G precinct, 286, of which Judge Lake received all but one for judge of supreme court. Total vote of county, 1,156, of which Judge Lake received 1,130.

Nov. 22d—Discusses in detail the street fight at Utica, which occurred some days before, in which railroaders and citizens exercised their pugilistic ability. Also, a stabbing affray north-west of the city, in which the Manning boys stabbed Frank Slonecker five times with a pocket knife. In same paper it is noted that township organization carried by a large majority. Also the result of the liquor damage case of Eliza Perkins, wherein she gains a judgment of \$3,000 against three saloons (this is the first case of the kind ever tried in the state) for selling her husband liquor and thereby causing his death.

Dec. 6th—We notice that R. R. Shick sold, in 1873, bonds for school district number 46 (now the Purdam district) \$1,000 for \$750, in order to build the little frame school-house. We quote the above to show just how our people were bled in the early days by capitalists. These bonds were ten per cent bonds and run for ten years.

April 10th, 1879—School census shows in district number nine (Seward) four hundred and eighty-nine school children. The same census gives the total population of the city at 1,250 and of the entire district at 1,666.

April 17th—Is noted financial condition of the city. Amount on hand April 22, 1878, \$68.14; collection to date, \$1,101.11; paid out, \$885.86; balance on hand, \$283.29.

April 24th—Chronicles the arrest of P. B. Thompson for robbing the mails in Seward post-office.

May 15th—Gives Orlando J. Cassler's autobiography. We will not quote it.

May 22d—A full history of the execution is given.

May 29th—Is noticed the purchase of the fire apparatus.

Also the shooting of McIntosh by Gordon on the road from the Cassler execution. Whiskey is charged with being the cause.

June 5th—The triumph of the A. & N. bond election is dwelt on at large. The total vote cast on county bonds was 1,798.

The commencement of Goehner block, on the corner of 7th and Seward streets, is noted. Also Henigan & Ashton's meat market on the east side.

June 26th—The injunction suit commenced by Claudius Jones against the commissioners in the matter of issuing railroad bonds to the Lincoln & Northwestern company is fully commented on, with severe strictures.

The arrest of Isaac Whitman for making counterfeit fifty cent pieces is announced. His factory was a dugout near West Mills, He worked over pewter and ground glass into silver half dollars, and was doing a thriving business.

July 10th—We clip the following from the description of the Fourth of July celebration parade. It speaks for itself, and shows to what extremes people can be led in hours of wild excitement. We trust those responsible for this scene have long since become ashamed of it.

"An immense hog, which some of the people mistook for an African elephant instead of a Seward county swine, on each side of its back were hung large letters 'B. & M.' A gaudily arrayed man was leading this hog by a strong rope, and this disguised personage was labeled 'U. P.' Following the hog came a man with a large shovel on his shoulder, with his hat festooned 'Banker,' and carrying a banner on which was inscribed the device, 'I do the dirty work for this hog, but it pays.'

"A large caricature representing first the figure of a man striking a lively gait, holding in his hand a roll inscribed 'Injunction,' which he is handing to an attendant near, accompanied with the exclamation, 'My only refuge is Salt Lake—serve this.' Following comes a woman with a carpet sack, and hanging to the coat-tails of the first described figure, exclaiming, 'Run, I smell tar!' In hot pursuit comes a crowd in the distance carrying buckets marked tar and feather beds. On the other end of this large standard was a large sleek man who had 'U. P.' on his hat, and held a rope that had been tied around a partly finished man inscribed 'A. & N.,' but the rope was broken in trying to hold the 'A. & N.' man, and the 'U. P.' figure exclaiming 'the A. & N. must be stopped at all hazards.'"

Also, the departure of Claudius Jones and family for Salt Lake is noted.

July 24th—It is noted that Fred D. Grant, a young lad living in N precinct, was killed by being dragged by a runaway horse.

July 31st—Says the contracts for the Norval block are completed.

Also, the death of Mrs. M. W. Warner, in M precinct, which occurred July 23d, 1879. This lady was the former wife of our late school superintendent.

Aug. 7th—It is reported that \$60,000 had been received for freight at the B. & M. depot in Seward during the year ending July 31st, 1879.

Oct. 16th—Is noticed at length the shooting by accident of Miss Lizzie Welty, which resulted in the death of a noble young woman.

Also the completion of the railroad to Milford.

Oct. 23d—The visit and speech of Hon. De La Matyr is commented on.

Nov. 6th—Is noted the completion of the A. & N. road, and the visit of fifty distinguished citizens of Lincoln.

Nov. 13th—It is mentioned that the following two-story brick buildings have been erected during the season: Henigan & Ashton's, John Cattle, Sen., Goehner Bros.' engine house, Bischof's, John Roberts', and Norval Bros.

Dec. 15th—We find an estimate of the corn crop of that year as follows: 2,300,000 bushels. The highest reported yield was eighty-five bushels per acre. In the same article it was estimated that the reduction in freight, consequent upon the building of the A. & N. R. R., was three cents per bushel, or \$69,000 on the crop of that year. According to our memory the estimate was rather low than high. It was a noteworthy fact that the Seward grain dealers of that fall and winter were able to pay from three to five cents more for corn than any town on the main line of the B. & M. west of Lincoln.

Jan. 8, 1888—The founding of Staplehurst and the shipment of eight cars of corn is recorded. Also the death of Mrs. Thomas Best, at Pleasant Dale, which occurred Dec. 18, 1879, aged sixty years.

We also append from its columns the following useful information:

“Edmund McIntyre has made the following statement for the B. & M. Land Department of the acreage and yield of cultivated lands in Seward county for 1879:

"Total acres in county, 368,640 ; under cultivation, 109,590 acres : in rye, 1,283 acres, yield 1,924 bushels ; in spring wheat, 43,825 acres, yield 482,362 bushels ; in barley (must be a mistake, too many acres or not enough barley), 8,900 acres, yield 17,800 bushels ; in oats, 5,718 acres, yield 227,720 bushels ; in buckwheat, 112 acres, yield 2,240 bushels ; in flax, 2,109 acres, yield 18,981 bushels ; in broom corn, 160 acres, yield $53\frac{1}{2}$ tons ; in corn, 46,584 acres, yield 2,096,280 bushels ; in potatoes, 966 acres, yield 36,840 bushels ; in turnips, 28 acres, yield 4,200 bushels ; in blue grass, 17 acres ; in timothy, 1,272 acres ; clover, 1,189 acres ; cultivated timber, 4,500 acres. Number of apple trees 30,500, pears 300, peaches 26,450, plums 8,000, cherries 16,000, grapes 33,000 vines ; 175 miles of hedges.

"These estimates are made on the returns of 1877 and estimates of the proportionate increase."

Sept. 9th—Is recorded the death of E. N. Wingfield, of "K" precinct, aged seventy-five years. His death occurred Sept 4, 1880. Mr. W. was a worthy Christian, and a member of the M. P. church.

Aug. 12th—The dedication of the U. B. church by Bishop Wright is favorably mentioned.

Also the death of Robert Walker, at the residence of his son James, aged seventy-seven years. The deceased was one of our old settlers, and was the father of W. H. Walker of our city. He was well known and highly respected.

Also, in D precinct, Aug. 2d, Henry Newjahr, of cancer, aged fifty-five years. He was one of the first settlers of that part of the county.

Aug. 25th—The editor, speaking of his contemporary, calls him "the bay-windowed, brazen-faced liar."

July 29th—Is recorded the death of Mrs. L. E. Tisdale, of Beaver Crossing, aged forty-five years. Mrs. Tisdale settled in Seward county in 1869. Her death occurred July 23d. Also the death of John S. Bartlett, at Milford, on July 25th, aged thirty-six years, of quick consumption.

June 10th—Records the freaks of the wind, the heaviest gale in many years, in which the Catholic church was partially wrecked, and many buildings damaged.

Feb. 19, 1880—Is recorded the death of Wilber McNall, by accidental shooting.

April 8, 1880—Records the result of city election, in which the anti-license party elects the whole ticket.

April 22d—Records the suicide of Chas. L. Docken. It was the result of unappreciated love.

April 22d—Also records the death of Ira Wendall, caused by getting his hand caught in machinery at West's mill. Deceased leaves a wife and two children to mourn his sad fate.

May 6, 1880—Is recorded the death of Mrs. Joseph H. Ballard, after a long and painful illness. Mrs. Ballard was an estimable Christian lady.

The visit and lecture of ex-Vice President Colfax is discussed at large.

The small-pox scare with its attendant results is noted.

CHAPTER V.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—FIRST OFFICERS—ITS HISTORY AND GROWTH—NAMES OF ITS PRESIDING OFFICERS—VALUABLE PROPERTY ACQUIRED—WATER AND WATER-COURSES OF THE COUNTY—ALTITUDE—LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE—HEALTHFULNESS OF CLIMATE—NO CHILLS AND FEVER—COOL NIGHTS IN SUMMER—RAINFALL IN SUMMER—WELLS—POLITICS OF THE COUNTY—INDEPENDENT CHARACTER OF VOTERS—TABLES OF COUNTY OFFICERS—SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JUDGES, CLERKS, TREASURERS, SHERIFFS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, CORONERS, SURVEYORS, SUPERVISORS—ASSESSMENTS FROM 1865 TO 1887—TAXES PAID STATE TREASURER IN 1887—CENSUS RETURNS BY PRECINCTS—COMPARATIVE TABLES OF WEALTH AND POPULATION—SEWARD COUNTY AS IT IS NOW.

Seward County Agricultural Society was organized August 7, 1871, by the adoption of a constitution and set of by-laws, and the election of the following officers: Milton Langdon, president; F. M. Ellsworth, vice president; T. F. Hardenburg, secretary; Geo. W. Standard, treasurer. The first fair was held from the 21st to 23d of September, in the grove south-west of Seward. By referring to the *Nebraska Atlas* of Sept. 29, 1871, we find in its columns that the fair was a success, and that there were over a thousand people in attendance. We have our memory refreshed also by finding in a later issue of the same sheet that our secretary got away with some of our funds. We have no means of learning just how much.

At the regular annual meeting in October, 1871, we find that W. W. Cox was elected president. There is no record of who were the other officers, but we remember that James A. Brown was chosen secretary, and Hon. T. L. Norval clerk; that we held the second annual fair at the same place as the first, and that it was quite successful. We arranged a very creditable premium list, and were able to pay all the indebtedness caused by the default of the former secretary, and every expense of the fair, including the premiums, and turned over sixty dollars to our successors in office. The exhibits were good, especially in farm products and in the fine arts. The trees of the

beautiful grove fairly blossomed with the handiwork of our women. The editor of the *Nebraska Farmer* delivered the annual address.

It is most unfortunate that all the records of the society from the date of its formation until 1881 have been lost or destroyed; and what is more surprising, the most diligent search through the files of the newspapers of those years discloses nothing from which we can learn anything of importance, except the first organization in the summer of 1871, in the *Nebraska Atlas*. We remember, however, that Mr. Campbell was elected president in the fall of 1872, and Joseph Lossee was secretary, and that they held a fair in the fall of 1873.

James A. Brown was elected president in the fall of 1873, and a fair was held in the fall of 1874. If we remember correctly, Mr. Brown was re-elected, but of this we have no means of being certain. They held a fair in the fall of 1875, and Mr. Brown delivered an address, which we find in the *Nebraska Reporter* in full, but not another word about the fair. The speech was a good one, and full of good hints and suggestions.

If memory serves us correctly (and we have searched diligently and taxed the memory of all who would be most likely to remember), Ed. McIntyre was elected president, and re-elected in the fall of 1876, or held over on account of there being no election in 1876. There was no fair held that year. In the fall of 1877 a fair was held, and was quite a success.

During the summer of 1877 an association was formed known as the Seward Trotting Park Association. This association bought forty acres of land of the B. & M. R. R. Co. at ten dollars per acre, and raised the money by selling stock in five dollar shares. Arrangements were made with the agricultural society to hold the fairs on these grounds for a certain consideration, and our fairs have been held there since that time.

There is much unwritten history connected with this trotting park association. In the first place the railroad folks were induced to part with the land at half price, because it was apparently for a public benefit. Men subscribed for stock in small quantities, just to help the enterprise, and had no thought of realizing any income from the investment. The stock was transferable, and it was but a short time until it was discovered that one man had a majority of the stock, and enjoyed complete control of the whole concern; so the association largely

consisted of one man. The community did not take kindly to the matter in that shape, and it was a source of continual trouble and annoyance until the citizens made up funds the second time and purchased the property outright for the agricultural society, in 1886, when the county commissioners made a liberal appropriation for improvements.

Claudius Jones was president in the fall of 1877, and held the fair in the fall of 1878, when William Gill was elected, and held the fair in the fall of 1879. In that year John Henderson was elected, and held the fair of 1880, when Wm. Redford was elected president. In that year we find a record (the first) of their proceedings.

The fairs were measurably successful as exhibitions, but the society was generally hard pressed for means, and frequently the more enterprising members were taxed almost beyond endurance to keep life in the society. Among the more notable persons who always had a shoulder to the wheel were James A. Brown, Ed. McIntyre, Wm. E. Gill, E. M. Hickman, and Claudius Jones. These men, and perhaps some others, are entitled to much credit for untiring energy and a free use of their money in keeping the society alive through many years of adversity.

We see by a record of a meeting held August 6, 1881, that Ed. McIntyre was elected secretary *pro tem*. We notice that J. A. Brown offered a resolution that the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice president, and three of the directors be declared vacant, on account of their negligence in performing their duties. Resolution adopted. Whereupon Geo. C. McKay was elected vice president, Ed. McIntyre, secretary, J. A. Brown, treasurer, and Wm. Gill, J. B. Courtwright, and Allen Price, directors, to fill vacancies. The fair was held Sept. 29th, 30th, and Oct. 1st of that year.

We notice in the report of their October meeting that the receipts were as follows: Total receipts, including \$300 from county, were \$1,135.10; total expenditures, \$1,016.36; leaving a balance of \$118.74.

At their December meeting Wm. Redford was re-elected president, and Ed. McIntyre was re-elected secretary, and R. S. Norval was elected treasurer. The time fixed for the fair of 1882 was Sept. 27th to 30th. J. S. Henderson was chosen superintendent. Wm. Gill was elected delegate to State Board of Agriculture. It was resolved at this meeting to hold a farmers' institute in February next, and the

secretary was instructed to correspond with Gov. Furnas and Prof. Thompson, and they voted to tax themselves fifty cents each to defray the expenses.

At a meeting of the board in August, 1882, \$40 was appropriated to pay expenses of a county exhibit at state fair.

Records of the meeting in July, 1883, show that there was received at last fair \$1,407.50, and expended, \$1374.10, leaving a balance of \$32.67. Wm. Redford was re-elected president; also, Mr. McIntyre was re-elected secretary by acclamation, and Wm. Gill was re-elected delegate to state board.

At the August meeting, 1883, Wm. Gill was employed to take charge of exhibit at state fair.

At the annual meeting of January 5, 1884, the report showed \$1,849.45 received from all sources, and \$1,744.20 paid out. E. M. Hickman was elected president, and C. S. Alling was elected secretary and treasurer. Wm. Gill was again elected delegate to state board.

At a called meeting in April the time for holding the annual fair was fixed at Oct. 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th.

At a meeting in August the president was instructed to conclude a contract with C. Jones for sixty shares of the Driving Park Association stock at \$1,000, and authorized to draw on the treasurer for \$50 to bind the bargain.

At a meeting in October an order was voted to Ed. McIntyre of \$50, to help pay expenses of exhibit at World's Fair at New Orleans.

At the annual meeting in January, 1885, Geo. Pickerel was elected president, and C. S. Alling was re-elected secretary and treasurer; E. I. McIntyre was elected superintendent, and J. H. Culver was elected delegate to state board and instructed to cast his vote to re-elect Gov. Furnas as secretary of said board. Dates fixed for the fair of 1885 were Sept. 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th. We find no report of treasurer, although it is recorded that report was approved.

At the annual meeting, February 6, 1886, Claudius Jones was elected president, C. S. Alling, secretary, and H. T. Jones, treasurer. Here again we find no report of treasurer, but a record that his report was approved.

At a special meeting held in July, a resolution is passed accepting a donation of \$2,000, secured by the Board of Trade of Seward, by its president, G. Babson, for the purchase of the Driving Park Association's grounds.

A general meeting of the society was authorized to be called by the secretary for July 23d, we suppose to finish the purchase of the grounds, but the secretary is silent about that, and we find no record of said meeting.

At the annual meeting in January Mr. Wm. Redford was elected president, and the secretary's office was left vacant, which was filled by the Board—H. T. Jones. J. N. Edwards was elected treasurer. Again we have no record of treasurer's report. An invitation was voted to the citizens to plant trees on the fair grounds on Arbor Day. The fair was held in October, 1887, and was a very successful show. It was without doubt one of the best stock exhibits at any county fair in the West.

The society have met and overcome grave obstacles within the two last years. First, a vast amount of money was raised to pay for the grounds and improve them, and during the last summer a heavy wind wrecked all the buildings, which were rebuilt at great expense, but now the society has the grounds and they are fairly improved and measurably free from debt, and with bright prospects for the future.

At the annual meeting in 1887 J. B. Courtwright was elected president, H. T. Jones was elected secretary, and George Dickman was elected treasurer. Treasurer's report showed: Total receipts of \$3,300; total expenditures, \$3,400.

Considering the valuable property and improvements, it is fair to say that the society is in a very prosperous condition.

WATER AND WATER-COURSES.

The drainage of the county is supplied by the following rivers and creeks: The west fork of the Blue river enters the county in section 30, in "L" precinct, passes into "M" precinct, in section 4, and passes through it in a south-east direction into "N" precinct in section 18, continues in a general south-east course, enters "O" precinct in section 30, and crosses the Saline county line near the south-east corner of section 32, and joins the North Blue just at the county line on the south line of section 32, in "P" precinct. Its principal tributaries are Johnson creek, which rises in western Saline county, passes through "M" and "N" precincts, and joins with the river just at the county line. Beaver creek passes

through the southern portion of York county and through "L," and joins the main stream just west of the village of Beaver Crossing in "M" precinct. Walnut creek rises in "L" precinct, and joins the river near the south line of section 7, in "M" precinct. Indian creek traverses the south-western portion of "M" and empties into the West Blue just south-west of Beaver Crossing. West Blue is a most excellent mill stream, and carries two flouring mills in this county, and furnishes drainage to all the south-western portion of the county. The river and tributaries are furnished at convenient distances with bridges. The river is noted for an abundant supply of superior fish. The North Blue enters the county in section 3 in "C" precinct, and its course is south-easterly through "C" and "G," and gracefully swings to the west and south of the city of Seward, and passes through "J," "O," and "P" precincts. Its principal tributary, Lincoln creek, enters the county in section 34 in "D" precinct, and traverses the southern portion of "D" and "C" precincts and the north-western portion of "G," and joins the river just west of Seward. Lincoln creek is a beautiful mill stream, and its broad valley is grandly beautiful. One mill in this county, at Marysville, only as yet responds to its invitation. Plum creek enters the county in section 3 in "B" precinct, and cuts the precinct centrally and empties its water into the river just south of Seward. Various other small streams join the main river and help in the excellent system of drainage.

Blue river furnishes ample power for mills and factories, but these water-powers are only utilized at three points, viz., Seward, by H. L. Boyes & Son, with a very creditable mill; at the Cooper & Henderson mill, and at Milford, where Messrs. Johnson & Co. have, at least, one of the most extensive merchant mills in the West.

Several branches of Oak creek traverse "A" precinct, and numerous branches of Middle creek have their rise in "H" and "I" precincts, furnishing ample drainage and supplying numerous running streams of pure water, making the eastern portion of the county par excellent as a stock growing region.

The general surface of the country is a slightly undulating plain, with a southern inclination, and probably presents as many acres of first-class tillable land as any county of our state. The altitude of the county is from 1400 to 1500 feet above tidewater. Our geo-

graphical position is sixty miles west of the Missouri, twenty-five south of the Platte, and forty-eight miles north of the Kansas line. The forty-first parallel of north latitude forms our northern boundary, and our western limit is the sixth principal meridian line. The ninety-seventh meridian of west longitude from Greenwich passes through the eastern portion of the county and about three and one-half miles east of Seward. Our elevation seems to be just about right; we are generally free from malaria; chills and fever are scarcely known since the pioneer days. At the dates of the early settlement, when great quantities of the new prairie sod were in the process of decay and the people had to endure unreasonable exposure, we were subject to chills and fever, or ague. We are free from that close, humid atmosphere of lower elevations, and yet we are not high enough to produce the inconvenience in breathing experienced in the higher altitudes. Our atmosphere is peculiarly bracing and energizing, Nights are cool, yet we are not subject to early or late frosts. We have usually a very small amount of snow, and scarcely no winter rains. Occasionally we have winter storms that are simply terrific, but they do not often occur. Our principal rainfall is between March 1st and September 1st, and is usually as well distributed through the growing season as in any portion of this continent. Our streams are not subject to disastrous overflows, as they are deeply imbedded and of rapid current. Our wells are of moderate depth, varying from twelve to twenty-five feet on the bottom lands and from forty to one hundred feet on the upland; however there are but few that exceed sixty feet. The water is uniformly very excellent and abundant. We are especially fortunate in the all-important element of water and water-courses.

POLITICS.

There are some peculiarities connected with the politics of Seward county. On the national ticket, also the state ticket, the county has been thoroughly republican from the beginning. In fact at our first and second elections every county officer elected was a republican.

Our first presidential election Grant received a very large majority, and likewise in 1872. The abstracts of election returns of 1865 to 1875 are not to be found in the county clerk's office. In 1876 Hayes received 905, and Tilden 593; in 1880 Garfield received

1,352, and Hancock 699; in 1881 Blaine received 1,630, and Cleveland 1,332.

Governor Butler received a large majority in 1866 and 1868; also Furnas in 1870; also Garber; and Nance in 1878 received 105 over all, and in 1880 he received 353 over all. Dawes majority over all in 1884 was 186, and Thayer's in 1886 was 279 over all. In fact every candidate on a state or congressional ticket of the republican party has secured fair majorities, yet strange as it may seem the democrats controlled the important office of county clerk for nine continuous terms, or eighteen years, from January, 1870, to January, 1888. Hon. Thomas Graham served five continuous terms, Ed. O'Keefe one term, being an anti-monopolist, but supported by the democratic party, and Joseph Dupin served three successive terms. Also the office of sheriff has been in the hands of the democrats ten years continuously. They have also controlled the state senatorship three terms out of six. The only explanation that we are able to give is that we are a wonderfully independent people, and determined to do just as we please on election day, without asking any odds of conventions. Notwithstanding the majority has always been strongly republican, the party never succeeded in electing the whole ticket since the fall of 1868, till the fall of 1887, when they made a clean sweep. It is perhaps proper to say that the democrats elected were very strong men, and many of them at least made excellent officers; and further, it is fitting to say that our county records are acknowledged to be equal to the best in the state.

Below we give as complete a list of senators, representatives, and county officers as it is possible to obtain. We give the year of the election of the several officers, and where parties held more than one term the terms are noted. Parties representing Seward county conjointly with other counties, but citizens of other counties, are generally not noted, especially in the senate.

STATE SENATE.

- 1st.—Hon. E. C. Carns, elected 1876. Republican.
- 2d.—Hon. T. L. Norval, elected 1878. Republican.
- 3d.—Hon. Thomas Graham, elected 1880. Democrat.
- 4th.—Hon. R. E. Dumphy, elected 1882. Democrat.
- 5th.—Hon. J. F. Gochner, elected 1884. Republican.
- 6th.—Hon. C. J. Wright, elected 1886. Democrat.

REPRESENTATIVES—TERRITORIAL.

1st.—Hon. Wm. Imlay, 1864. Republican.

2d.—Hon. E. L. Clark, 1866. Republican.

REPRESENTATIVES—STATE.

1st.—Hon. E. L. Clark, 1867, Republican.

2d.—Hon. Marcus Brush, 1868, from Saunders county. Democrat.

3d.—Hon. A. Roberts, 1870, from Butler county. Republican.

4th.—Hon. W. J. Thompson, 1872, resigned. Republican.

5th.—Hon. D. C. McKillip, 1873, to fill vacancy. Republican.

6th.—Hon. D. C. McKillip, 1874. Republican.

7th.—Hon. T. A. Healy, 1876, resigned. Republican.

8th.—Hon. Wm. Hickman, 1877, to fill vacancy. Republican.

9th.—Hon. Thomas Wolfe, 1876, two members. Republican.

10th.—Hon. Wm. Hickman, 1878. Republican.

11th.—Hon. H. A. French, 1878. Republican.

12th.—Hon. Henry Bick, 1880. Republican.

13th.—Hon. H. P. King, 1880, resigned. Republican.

14th.—Hon. L. Chaduck, 1881, to fill vacancy. Republican.

15th.—Hon. J. Swearingen, 1882. Republican.

16th.—Hon. D. J. Brown, 1882. Republican.

17th.—Hon. Thomas Carr, 1884. Republican.

18th.—Hon. C. M. Turner, 1884. Republican.

19th.—Hon. Nicholas Wolenweber, 1886. Democrat.

20th.—Hon. Henry Bick, 1886. Mugwump.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

1st.—William Imlay, H. W. Parker, and W. J. Thompson, elected 1865. Republicans.

2d.—Wm. Imlay, 1866, re-elected. Republican.

3d.—W. J. Thompson, 1867, re-elected. Republican.

4th.—J. L. Bandy, 1868. Republican.

5th.—Wm. Imlay, 1869, re-elected. Republican.

6th.—Wm. Hornburg, 1870. Republican.

7th.—D. H. Harris, 1871. Republican.

8th.—Samuel Manley, 1872. Republican.

9th.—Benj. Hunkins, 1873. Democrat.

10th.—M. Dunigan, 1874. Democrat.

11th.—W. G. Hazelwood, 1875. Republican.

- 12th.—G. F. Hulburt, 1876. Republican.
- 13th.—L. D. Bates, 1877. Republican.
- 14th.—Geo. C. McKay, 1878. Republican.
- 15th.—B. N. Learned, 1879. Republican.
- 16th.—M. Dunigan, 1880. Democrat.
- 17th.—O. E. Bernecker, 1881. Democrat.
- 18th.—E. L. Blanchard, 1882. Republican.
- 19th.—D. B. Palmer, 1883. Republican.
- 20th.—Wm. Redford, 1884. Republican.
- 21st.—H. G. Hosford, 1885. Republican.

PROBATE JUDGES.

- 1st.—J. L. Davison, 1865. Republican.
- 2d.—J. D. Maine, 1867. Republican.
- 3d.—Henry Wortendyke, 1869. Republican.
- 4th.—J. W. Shields, 1871. Democrat.
- 5th.—O. T. B. Williams, 1873. Republican.
- 6th.—George W. Lowley, 1881. Republican.
- 7th.—C. E. Holland, 1887. Republican.

COUNTY CLERKS.

- 1st.—Thomas West, 1865. Republican.
- 2d.—Wm. H. Reed, 1867. Republican.
- 3d.—Thomas Graham, 1869, five terms. Democrat.
- 4th.—Ed O'Keefe, 1879. Greenbacker.
- 5th.—Joseph W. Dupin, 1881, three terms. Democrat.
- 6th.—R. T. Cooper, 1887. Republican.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

- 1st.—C. J. Niehardt, elected 1865. Republican.
- 2d.—E. L. Clark, Jr., elected 1869. Republican.
- 3d.—M. A. McPherson, elected 1871. Republican.
- 4th.—W. B. Thorp, elected 1873 and 1875. Republican.
- 5th.—L. G. Johns, elected 1877 and 1879. Republican.
- 6th.—R. T. Cooper, 1881; re-elected 1883. Republican.
- 7th.—D. H. Figard, 1885; re-elected 1887. Republican.

SHERIFFS.

- 1st.——— Chapin, elected 1865. Republican.
- 2d.—A. J. Wallingford, elected 1867. Republican.

- 3d.—W. H. Tuttle, elected 1869. Republican.
4th.—J. W. McCabe, elected 1871. Republican.
5th.—I. D. Niehardt, elected 1873, two terms. Republican.
6th.—John Sullivan, elected 1877, two terms. Democrat.
7th.—John Brown (died in office), elected 1881, two terms. Democrat.
8th.—C. H. Adams, elected 1885. Democrat.
9th.—J. M. Smiley, elected 1887. Republican.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

- 1st.—Thomas Graham, appointed 1867. Democrat.
2d.—Geo. B. France, elected 1869, three terms. Republican.
3d.—J. D. Messenger, elected 1875, two terms. Republican.
4th.—E. Benson, elected 1881. Republican.
5th.—M. Warner, elected 1883, two terms. Republican.
6th.—G. F. Burkett, elected 1887. Republican.

CORONERS.

- 1st.—W. W. Cox was elected, but did not qualify, in 1867.
2d.—J. M. Evans, elected 1869. Republican.
3d.—E. L. Clinton, elected 1871. Republican.
4th.—Leland Walker, elected 1873, two terms. Republican.
5th.—J. H. Woodward, elected 1877. Republican.
6th.—G. B. Brandon, elected 1879. Democrat.
7th.—A. K. Siep, elected 1881, four terms. Republican.

SURVEYORS.

- 1st.—R. T. Gale, elected 1865, two terms. Republican.
2d.—J. H. Anderson, elected 1869, two terms. Republican.
3d.—J. V. Ainsworth, elected 1873. Republican.
4th.—G. A. Kilpatrick, elected 1875, two terms. Republican.
5th.—E. Jull, elected 1881. Republican.
6th.—G. A. Kilpatrick, elected 1873, three terms. Republican.

SUPERVISORS ELECTED IN 1886.

It will be noted that the commissioner system was changed in January, 1887, to that of township organizations.

A precinct—E. W. Olney. Republican.

- B precinct—M. Dunigan. Democrat.
C precinct—W. H. Dobson. Democrat.
D precinct—A. D. Sperry. Republican.
E precinct—B. C. Ragan. Republican.
F precinct—W. H. Miner. Democrat.
G precinct—Wm. Redford. Republican.
H precinct—Carl Koch. Democrat.
I precinct—Fred Fosler. Democrat.
J precinct—O. E. Bernecker. Democrat.
K precinct—J. H. Robertson. Democrat.
L precinct—Adam Seed. Republican.
M precinct—W. H. Mygatt. Republican.
N precinct—F. W. Upton. Republican.
O precinct—J. L. Burkey. Democrat.
P precinct—Henry Rogge. Democrat.

SUPERVISORS ELECTED IN 1887.

- A precinct—J. J. Martin. Democrat.
B precinct—C. J. Wright. Democrat.
C precinct—Andrew Schultz. Republican.
D precinct—A. D. Sperry. Mugwump.
E precinct—B. C. Ragan. Republican.
F precinct—Morris Underhill. Republican.
G precinct—Chas Lyon. Republican.
H precinct—Carl Koch. Democrat.
I precinct—D. Dankers. Republican.
J precinct—O. E. Bernecker. Democrat.
K precinct—John Florin. Republican.
L precinct—Adam Seed. Republican.
M precinct—D. Blanchard. Republican.
N precinct—R. C. Rhea. Republican.
O precinct—Cyrus Wyandt. Republican.
P precinct—Henry Rogge. Democrat.

SEWARD CITY—TWO MEMBERS.

- J. F. Goehner, Republican.
W. R. Dickison, Republican.

ASSESSMENTS.

1865—Total number of acres deeded land, 4,728. This was all or about all speculator's land. The assessment on land that year was \$18,867, or nearly \$4 per acre; personal assessment, \$10,880; total assessment, \$29,747; total tax levy for the year, \$423, or nearly thirteen mills on a dollar for all purposes. We have no means of ascertaining just how much of the tax of that year was collected.

We now skip over to the year of 1870, and find 33,670 acres on the list, and together with the personal property (they were not divided) amounts to \$120,160, or an increase of 28,942 acres of land, and a total increase of assessed value of \$90,413 in five years, or an average of increase of more than \$18,000 per year.

In 1885, we have assessed 275,203 acres of land, at \$1,025,439, or about \$3.72 per acre. This year town property begins to cut some figure, and we find it assessed at \$92,091; eleven miles of railroad, \$67,480; personal, \$412,234; making a total of \$1,597,244.

In 1880, we find upon the assessment rolls 338,799 acres of land valued at \$3.56 per acre, or \$1,216,669; town property, \$130,905; personal, \$506,316; railroad (fifty-four miles), \$183,447. A grand total of \$2,037,337. In this year we find that 155,193 acres were improved, and the following acreage of crops reported: wheat, 53,877; corn, 67,294; oats, 6,824; meadow, we suppose it to be tame, but it is not so stated, 1,614; number fruit trees, 53,176; forest trees, 1,053,853.

1885.—We find the lands assessed at \$4.01 per acre, and total land assessment, \$1,391,385; town property, \$197,175; personal, \$805,610; railroad, \$270,437. Total, \$2,664,607.

1887.—Lands were assessed, \$1,489,287; town property, \$234,651; personal, \$805,311; railroads, \$271,965. Total, \$2,801,214.

These figures are sufficient to show something of the growth of property for the twenty-two years, from 1865 to 1887, and that will answer our purpose without an overdose of tables, which are usually rather dry reading.

We find that there was paid to the state treasurer during the year 1887, as our share of state tax, the snug sum of \$21,821.74, and that there was paid in collecting on principal and interest on school and other state lands the additional sum of \$11,380.90. We are quite well satisfied with this showing.

CENSUS RETURNS.

	YEAR.	POP.
1st returns for the county.....	1870.....	2,953
2d returns for the county.....	1874.....	7,429
3d returns for the county, after grasshoppers.....	1875.....	6,601
4th returns for the county.....	1876.....	6,875
5th returns for the county.....	1878.....	7,991
6th returns for the county	1880.....	11,095
7th and last returns for the county.....	1885.....	15,225
Estimated returns for the county	1887.....	18,000

PRECINCTS BY CENSUS OF 1885.

	POPULATION.	NO. FARMS	FACTORIES.
A.....	394.....	76.....	
B.....	571.....	112.....	
C (including Staplehurst).....	1,076.....	139.....	11
D.....	777.....	140.....	
E (including Utica).....	1,225.....	160.....	10
F (including Tamora).....	882.....	190.....	
G (including Seward).....	2,728.....	169.....	61
H.....	1,095.....	155.....	
I.....	690.....	131.....	
J.....	776.....	149.....	
K.....	672.....	130.....	
L.....	843.....	139.....	
M.....	750.....	91.....	
N.....	748.....	134.....	
O (including Milford).....	1,462.....	146.....	15
P.....	536.....	93.....	
Totals	15,225	2,154	97

Or about one improved farm to every seven persons. Now deducting the population of the towns, viz., 3,567, and it leaves a county population of 11,658, making a farm for a little less than five and one-half population. It is fair to presume that the number of farms has increased ten per cent since this census was taken, and that would make the present number of farms at this time 2,369.

The manufacturing industries, as given in the census tables, include every class of manufacturing, such as mills, creameries, wagon

shops, blacksmith shops, shoe shops, tanners' shops, etc. We are sorry that it seems impossible to obtain the amount of capital invested in manufacturing industries. The growth of such industries within the last year has been most remarkable. Of these we will treat fully in another place.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF WEALTH AND POPULATION.

In 1883 Seward had \$2,346,480, and was No. 13 in the list of counties of our state.

1884, \$2,513,184 and 12th.

1885, 2,664,607 " 9th.

1886, 2,722,020 " 8th.

POPULATION.

1870, Seward 2,953 and was 15th.

1874, " 7,429 " 8th.

1875, " 6,601 " 10th.

1876, " 6,875 " 9th.

1878, " 7,991 " 11th.

1880, " 11,095 " 11th.

1885, " 15,225 " 12th.

SEWARD COUNTY AS IT NOW IS.

As the chiming bells ring in the glad New Year of 1888, we find well-nigh twenty thousand just about as intelligent, and certainly just as happy, people as may be found anywhere in all our vast domain.

We are pleasantly situated in the state, and now have easy access to all the markets of the country. We have been especially blessed with an abundant harvest. Certainly "our barns are filled with plenty," and the needs of the world are such that we command a good price for our vast surplus. The general health of the people is most excellent. Prosperity, peace, and good-will reign in all our borders. The advance we have made in developing the wilderness into fruitful fields and blooming gardens, is truly wonderful.

We are now, while yet in our infancy, the happy possessors of nearly twenty-five hundred farms, as good in all essential elements of wealth as can be found in the north-western states, and that means

the wide, wide world. We generally have pleasant and comfortable homes, with nice yards and gardens. Most of us have orchards. We have beautiful and very luxuriant tame meadows. We have at least two thousand groves of planted timber, so dotting the plain that it almost looks like a timber country. We have excellent roads, as good as could be desired. We have excellent bridges generally, at convenient distances on all the streams. We have good drainage, and our soil is just good enough. An abundant supply of pure health-giving water. Three grand mill streams. A magnificent and ever-increasing school fund, with ninety organized school districts and ninety-five school-houses, thickly set like sparkling gems on hill-top and plain. Thirty Christian churches, shedding their beams of holy light among the people, and pointing them upward toward God and heaven. Three great lines of railway traversing the county in all directions and furnishing to the people twelve stations for shipping produce and receiving merchandise. Three telegraph and one telephone line running through the county, bringing all the people, as it were, right at the focus of intelligence and the general news of the world.

We have nine thriving villages, and one grand city within our borders. We have abundant water-power awaiting development. Although we have many fine mills, and one perhaps the best in the state, yet the utilizing of this precious gift is scarcely begun.

With the capital of our state almost at our door, and with all our varied resources of grains, grasses, vegetables, and fruits, of cattle and swine, with plenty of clear cold water to drink, why should we not have a happy New Year?

We are a favored people. Ours is most truly a land of milk and honey. Our aggregate wealth surpasses ten millions of dollars, and is constantly growing with the years. Our towns and city are growing and expanding, and are from month to month adding new conveniences, comforts, and luxuries to lessen the burdens of all our people. Our progress is the wonder of the age, yet its progression will be accelerated from year to year. We have added during the year just passed very many valuable improvements, and we may fairly say that 1887 has marked a new epoch in our rapid advancement.

We see signs of new life, activity, and vigor, here, there, everywhere within our borders.

A new railway has been commenced and completed, cutting the county centrally from north-east to south-west, opening up a great new artery of traffic, and bringing in its train joy and gladness for thousands of our people, building up three new villages along the way and infusing new life and activity into the fourth, and adding new life to the city. Truly this was a grand achievement, and will pay many times its cost to the people. "B," Goehner, and Hunkins have been added to our list of villages.

Beaver Crossing has been thoroughly awakened from her Rip Van Winkle sleep of years and years, and now bids fair to become a city of no mean proportions.

Good depots, elevators, business houses, and numerous dwellings already grace the new towns, and in one at least ("B") a new church.

Milford shows new life and activity, valuable improvements and additions to the great grain elevators at the mill, a great livery barn that looks large for Omaha, the new sanitarium building, some palatial residences, and the final assurance of the new Industrial Home, a state institution; and with the grade complete of a new railroad connecting the town with Crete and the south, she has much to gladden the hearts of all her sons and daughters.

Pleasant Dale, while not pretentious, but modest, is fitly named. She is the "gem" of that beautiful valley, is constantly growing, and day by day becomes more beautiful.

Utica, always prosperous, is enjoying substantial prosperity, and to its other grand achievements of the past has added a live newspaper.

Tamora continues the young "wonder" of the prairie. She never ceases to grow. She will never cease to prosper, adding to her acquisitions month after month churches, residences, schools, and new homes of taste and elegance.

Staplehurst, nestling in the valley of the upper Blue, while not growing rapidly, is in a prosperous condition, and has a strong vitality, and will always maintain her position as a splendid grain and stock market.

Germantown is coming to the front in splendid shape. Although having received a baptism of fire, which may prove a good and precious gift as a cleanser and purifier, she has just completed a beauty of a school-house, and many new residences have been added to her number. She is prosperous and happy.

The county is prosperous in all its parts. Many fields of new sod have kissed the bright plowshare during the past summer, tens of thousands of fruit trees planted, hundreds of miles of new pasture fences have been built, new bridges have spanned the streams, much of grace and beauty has been added, and all sections seem determined to push forward to grander results.

Seward county, the home of our choice, chosen when we were in the prime of our manhood's strength, the home where the most of our children were born, the home of pleasant memories, and where peace and plenty have generally rewarded our efforts, but where at times we have been overshadowed with dark clouds of want and sorrow, when first we set foot on thy soil we loved thee, and now when long years have passed and we are on the shadowy side of the hill of life we love thee still. God bless Seward county and all her people, is our humble prayer.

CHAPTER VI.

HISTORY OF PRECINCTS FROM "A"* TO "P"—THEIR FIRST SETTLEMENTS—INCLUDING HISTORIC LETTERS FROM "A" BY E. W. OLNEY—FROM "B" BY F. M. TIMBLIN—FROM "G" BY JAMES A. BROWN—FROM "N" BY I. M. K. JOHNSON—FROM "P" BY MRS. H. W. PARKER, AND FROM "G" BY MRS. SARAH F. ANDERSON.

"B" PRECINCT.

The ten first settlers in "B" precinct, or town twelve north, range three east, were as follows:

John D. Hickman, in 1867; William, Joseph, Andrew, Henry, and Wesley Hickman, Thomas Poore, and Duncan McVaine, in 1868; John Quillon and F. M. Timblin, in 1869.

The first school-house (a sod house) was built in the fall of 1869, and the school was taught by F. M. Timblin during the following winter. The teacher was paid by subscription.

A literary club and debating society was formed, and the settlers often met for mental culture and entertainment. Herewith we append the instructive letter of F. M. Timblin, and also a communication taken from the first number of the *Atlas*.

In 1887 the F., E. & M. V. railroad was built through the precinct, and a station located at "B," which is rapidly coming to the front as a business point. They now have a good depot, a grain elevator, a lumber yard, two stores, and several dwellings, and it bids fairly to become quite an important village. The new church is nearly complete, of which we give the history elsewhere.

The precinct has six miles of railroad, has on the census rolls 571 inhabitants with 112 farms, which rank among the best, and has five school-houses, all good frame buildings. The farmers are most universally prosperous.

"C" PRECINCT

Was first settled by Frank Shields in the winter of 1863 and 1864, on what is known as the "Casey place." His settlement was not

* For the history of "A" precinct the reader is referred to the valuable letter of E. W. Olney, Esq.

very permanent. Among the first to make permanent settlement were Wm. Reed, Judge John W. Shields, Geo. Reed, John A. Durland, and Frank E. Pitt. These all settled in 1864 and 1865, and were soon followed by Moses Mitchell, Walter Hoops, and two or three others whose names have escaped our memory. These early settlers all located by the river, for the sake of the timber and water. Settlements did not penetrate the high prairie much until 1868, when people came like a flock of pigeons.

"C" precinct is cut in two unequal parts by Blue river, and has excellent water-powers that are yet undeveloped. Lincoln creek also cuts the south-west corner of the precinct, and furnishes a splendid water-power, which has a fine mill at Marysville. This mill was built by Luke Agur in 1870, and has been lately rebuilt, enlarged, and much improved. It is now a first-class country flouring mill with all modern improvements.

Marysville is the nucleus of a large German settlement that extends far up and down the creek, and overreaches the boundaries of the precinct. They had located a store and church, with a school-house, soon after the founding of Seward. Wm. Hornburg, John Schoepp, and old Mr. Hartman's family were among the first to settle there. George C. McKay, John Gladwish, Father Archer and his family, and some others settled on the prairie between the river and Lincoln creek, and further up the river Thos. Corr and John Gillbanks settled in 1868. Marysville remains a trading point and post-office, and the Lutheran church makes it a prominent gathering place for the people.

Staplehurst was founded by George C. McKay in the autumn of 1879, immediately after the completion of the A. & N. R. R. Mr. McKay erected the first dwelling. T. W. Lowrey opened a grain house the same fall. Staplehurst grew slowly at first, but in 1882-83 it began to assume importance as a shipping and trading point. Messrs. Goehner & Co. laid out a large addition to the town, and many business houses sprang up immediately, including two first class elevators, a good hotel, a fine church, and a host of dwellings. They have two school-houses, and maintain a graded school. The place contains near three hundred inhabitants, and is organized as a village; enjoys a good trade, and is prosperous.

"C" precinct has 1,076 inhabitants, with 139 farms and eleven

manufacturing industries, and six school-houses. Many of the farms are well improved with fine orchards and many good barns. The precinct has six miles of railroad.

T. C. Allen is responsible for the following story: Probably the first time a religious meeting was held old Father Worley, of Ulysses, was preaching in a sod school-house, and was talking of hell and heaven in an old-fashioned way, and had the congregation pretty well excited, when a serpent fell into the lap of one of the ladies, from the brush covering of the house. The audience were worse scared at the snake than at the preacher's hell, which he was so ably describing. For further particulars the reader is referred to the Rev. Father Worley.

"D" PRECINCT.

This is the north-western precinct of the county, and is principally situated on the great divide between Blue river and Lincoln creek; however, the latter creek runs through the southern portion of it. This precinct is a most excellent farming region, and is the home of many of our best and most successful farmers. It has no village within its borders, and only a short piece of railroad. The F., E. & M. V. just clips the corner of the precinct. The people are provided with five rival markets, viz.: Ulysses, Surprise, Poston, Utica, and Staplehurst; so that all portions of the precinct are handy to good market towns.

The census tables give the precinct 777 population, 140 farms, and 5 schools, all with good frame buildings. The post-office is named Orton, and is kept at a farm house, and the mail service is by star route.

The first settlement was made in 1867 by Mr. Wm. Jackman and Mr. Jesse Horton. We remember his moving to the county with a pair of oxen harnessed like horses. Mr. Wm. Reynolds settled in 1868. He it was who committed suicide in Utica some years ago while in a fit of temporary insanity. Also Mr. Johnson, a lame man, who bought the first harvester ever taken to the Lincoln creek settlement, in 1870, and O. C. Ragan, of the hawk story, came the same year; also Wm. Hornburg; and in 1871 the Richies—A. D., Wm., and his brother—with T. C. Allen and several others, made settlement on the high prairie, among whom were E. B. Hatch, who taught the first school in Jackman's dug-out in 1872.

This portion of the county is finely developed, and we are free to say that it is our favorite precinct for farming purposes.

“E” PRECINCT.

Town eleven, range one east, is an unbroken plain without a running stream, and with the exception of a few marshes is wholly an excellent body of farm land.

M. C. Wright, Joseph Jones, Samuel Gleason, G. A. Derby, Mr. Greenwood, and H. M. Coleman were among the first to settle, in 1871, and were followed in 1872 by great numbers. About the time of the first settlement the state road was located from Seward to York and passed through this precinct.

In the early history of “E” there were no such incidents of thrilling interest as occurred on the great freight roads, and the few settlers on the prairie were not so isolated from the world, as Seward was quite a town when the settlement of this prairie began. Yet the first settlers saw some rough times, although they were free from Indian scares and not in any positive danger of starving, as older settlements were near at hand. The growth and development of the farmers’ portion has been steady and kept full pace with other portions of the county, and now has fine improvements throughout. Finely improved farms, innumerable groves of planted timber and orchards, etc., etc.

Miss Clara Derby had the honor of teaching the first school in the precinct, in the summer of 1873. There are now outside of Utica three school-houses, and two others in which the people are interested.

Population, including Utica, 1,225, with 160 farms and ten manufacturing industries, and six miles of railroad. Their railroad station and village is the bright town of Utica, which was founded in the autumn of 1878. The first beginning and growth of Utica is related in another chapter, but its present status may be named here. The village contains between 600 and 700 people, and is third in population and business importance in the county, and has many live and energetic business men; maintains a graded school with a fine structure, a large steam grist mill, an opera house—a commodious brick structure, three grain elevators, two lumber yards, two banks, quite a large number of mercantile establishments, several churches, a fair-sized hotel, two livery stables, numerous shops, and many

fine dwellings. The A. F. and A. M., the I. O. O. F., and G. A. R. each have themselves established orders. Flourishing Sabbath-schools are maintained by the churches, and taken all together Utica is a pleasant village and is fairly prosperous.

“F” PRECINCT.

Thomas Skillman made the first settlement on Sec. 13, in the spring of 1865. Joseph Roberts either pre-empted or homesteaded the land now owned by Rev. E. W. Johnson, in the fall of 1864, but failed to make settlement, and the place was homesteaded by Rev. Johnson in 1866. Mr. Roberts built or partly built a log cabin on his claim. George and Russell Rogers and their mother, Widow Rogers, each made settlement in the autumn of 1866. D. H. Figard, James Anderson, and Charles and Joseph Thurman each settled in the spring of 1867; also Abram Wallach. During the spring of 1868, a large number came, among whom were George Slonecker, Sam Stevenson, Aaron and Allen Anderson, Mr. Shockey, and Mr. Osborne.

The first school was taught in the summer of 1868, in the old log cabin on Rev. Johnson's place.

The first church organization was effected by Rev. Johnson, at the Slonecker school-house. It was the United Brethren church.

“F” precinct, according to the last census, has 882 inhabitants and 190 farms, being the banner precinct in that she has the largest number of farms of any precinct in the county. She has five school districts, each with a creditable building; has seven miles of railroad; has one excellent mill stream, but it is not utilized in the precinct at present. Some years ago a mill was built by Mr. Jull, but it burned down and as yet has not been replaced. It has probably the largest belt of excellent wild meadow of any one of our precincts.

Tamora, “F” precinct's railroad station and village, was surveyed into lots in 1879, and during the fall of that year, Mr. J. W. Scott built a small grain house, put in scales, and bought grain, and Wm. Butler opened a small store. P. G. Tyler's family was the first to settle in the new town. There was very little growth until the summer of 1882; however Morrissey Bros. built an elevator in 1881. T. W. Lowrey built his in 1882. The first school in the town was opened in the spring of 1884. The Presbyterian church was organized in 1880, and they bought a little building and used until the new church was built, in 1883. This church was dedicated Nov. 9, 1883.

The M. E. church was built in 1882. In 1886 the new two-story four-room school-house was built, at a cost of \$2,100. A graded school is maintained, with two teachers, and is in a flourishing condition. There are now three elevators, a good depot, three general stores, one first-class hardware store, a fair-sized hotel, a good livery barn, two banks, a lumber yard, a drug store, and various shops, with a goodly number of cosy dwellings.

Tamora is a beautiful village with a good trade, and is a very desirable place in which to live. The people are universally intelligent and wide-awake. Have always been free from the contagion of saloons. They say that they never had any use for saloons, and they throw their surplus energy into beautifying their homes and maintaining their schools and churches. The village contains near three hundred inhabitants, and is surrounded by a beautiful and rich farming country. Anyone desiring a neat, quiet home, with excellent church and school facilities, where they are within a few minutes ride of the city, and where they are free from the influence of saloons, we cheerfully recommend Tamora as the place where they can find a genial home.

"G" PRECINCT.

So far as is definitely known, William Wymore and a brother-in-law of the name of Olmstead made the first settlement, in the fall of 1863—Mr. Wymore on Sec. 8, what is now part of W. W. Cox's farm, Mr. Olmstead on Sec. 17, Mr. John Roberts' north farm. These parties were deserters from the Union army and the provost marshal (Hon. O. P. Mason) had discovered their whereabouts, and they having learned this, hurriedly made their escape early in March, 1864. Mr. Cox purchased Mr. Wymore's claim for seventy-five dollars, and Mr. O. abandoned his, and the land was entered by John Roberts in 1865.

In the first half of April, 1864, Hon. Wm. Inlay and his father's family moved to their claims, and Mr. R. T. Gale moved to his at about the same time. Father Dunaway settled in July, and W. W. Cox on the first day of December. In April, 1865, Thomas Dunaway and wife made settlement, and were followed in May by Richard Sampson and J. N. Roberts. Lewis Moffitt came in July, and built a log house on the future site of the city, and Rev. E. L. Clark came in October. This completed the settlements of 1865. In the early

spring of 1866 the settlement was increased by the addition of E. L. Ellis, John Roberts, Sen., Joseph Sampson, and, later in the season, James A. Brown on Sec. 20, J. F. Duncan who settled on Sec. 8, Stites Wooley on Sec. 15, and Roger Cooper on Sec. 12. E. B. Shafer settled just south of the present city, and Wm. Cooper just north-east of the city.

The first homestead entry was that of Mr. Gale, of January 2, 1863; Stites Wooley (lately deceased) was the second; W. W. Cox, third, dated March 27, 1864; Father Dunaway, fourth; David P. Imlay, fifth; Wm. Imlay, sixth; David Imlay (Grandpa), seventh; Richard Sampson and J. N. Roberts, eighth and ninth; Thomas Dunaway and Joseph Imlay, tenth and eleventh.

During the summer of 1864, there were broken thirty acres of land on three farms, viz., Wm. Imlay's, D. P. Imlay's, and Mr. Gale's. The following summer there were broken about one hundred and fifty acres, on seven farms. It may be a matter of surprise that no more land was broken, but it is equally surprising, to us that understand fully all the conditions, that so much was accomplished. In the first place, we were all as poor as church mice. We had but few and very poor teams, and very few and miserably poor breaking plows. Had the reader seen the writer with a pair of plowshares, wending his way on foot to old man Morgan's to get them sharpened by a corn-cob fire, then seen the vexation and delays in adjusting them to the work on our return, then followed us in our perambulations hunting for the lost oxen, and then accompanied us with our old ox team seventy-five miles to mill, and watched all our struggles to keep soul and body together, menaced by Indians on the one side, begging us out of countenance, and frequently showing a spirit of arrogance and impudence, so that we hardly dare leave our families any length of time. Frequently we were compelled to scour distant settlements of Lancaster, Otoe, and Cass counties for meager supplies of provisions, fording streams and camping out nights. With very little or no money, no credit (there was no one in reach to credit us), a scanty supply of provisions, and still more scanty supply of clothing, we struggled against wind and tide through the weary years of our first settlement. In many instances we had to make "bricks without straw." Houses were to be built without proper tools, also bridges, and every class of work was accomplished under the most discourag-

ing circumstances. The wonder is that we did not all become so much discouraged as to pull up stakes and go back to our wife's relations, as some of the more weak-kneed folks did.

During August, 1864, the little settlement of four families became seriously alarmed on account of the Indian panic, at the same time of the exodus from Salt creek. Mr. Gale was away from home at Salt basin. The families had all gathered on Plum creek, at Grandpa Imlay's house, and were hurriedly preparing for flight, when suddenly Wm. Imlay's wagon tire burst, and while they were all dismayed at the catastrophe it proved a blessing in disguise, for the rest of the company could not leave him and family to perish alone, and before they succeeded in getting the old wagon in shape to travel the scare was over, and all were ready to return to their homes. Thus the infant settlement was saved from abandonment by this lucky accident.

A few days after our arrival with our family at the new home, about the night of the 8th of December—a very cold winter night—the gentle rapping of Joseph Imlay was heard in the small hours of the night, with the refreshing news that a child was about to be born at the house of Mr. Gale. Wife hurriedly dressed, and Joseph hitched our old “Nig” and “Darb” to the wagon, and away they went down the bottom and across the present city to the bank of Plum creek, just to the east of Mr. Bemis' home, where a huge snow drift was encountered. The oxen were chained to the wagon, and our good wife was compelled to slide down the steep bank over the great drift of snow to reach the creek. When she reached the house she found that Miss Clara Gale had come to life and light to bless the home of her parents. We are happy to say that the young lady is yet living, and is highly accomplished and a resident of East Portland, Oregon.

During 1867 and 1868 settlement increased quite rapidly. The latter year witnessed the birth of the future city, and the history of the precinct from that time is so blended with that of the city that we couple them in a future chapter. This, in connection with the earlier chapters of “reminiscences,” we deem a sufficient history of the early times of this immediate locality. However, there are many incidents of those days that it would be gratifying to the author to see in print, but it is not our aim to bore the reader with details unnecessarily.

“H” PRECINCT OR TOWN,

Or town eleven, range four east, is one of the eastern townships, and situated on the head of the north fork of Middle creek. It is rolling land, with numerous springs and bright running streams, many of them fringed with nice young timber. The settlement is largely German. The first settler was Lewis Leibrock, on his present farm near the stone church. Conrad Grant and Deidrick Brant settled soon afterwards. Wm. Lubber, Gillman Garland, B. W. Walker, Fritz Ropke, and Wm. Leppe made settlement in 1868, and in 1869 Chris. Thomas and Jacob Thomas, John Westerhoff, and C. C. Davis; also Chas. Ruchtassel made settlement just at the edge of the plain on the west side of the precinct; also Henry Petrie and John Olwiler.

The first school was organized in 1869, with Wolsey Wyant, L. Leibrock, and Conrad Grant as school officers. They erected a school-house on section 28, and Thos. Cowen taught the first term. The second school-house was built in 1873, in district No. 32, and Mrs. J. P. Loose, then Miss Kate Miller, taught the first term. The stone church, of which we give elsewhere a history, was built under the pastorate of Rev. Theo. Gruber, in 1872, valued at \$3,000. The Lutheran society laid out a cemetery in 1868, on the farm of Mr. Leibrock. July 14, 1869, the two sons of Conrad Grant were killed by lightning, and these were the first deaths in the precinct.

Charles Grant was the first child born in the settlement, in 1868.

The Midland railroad was built through the precinct in 1873, and Germantown was laid into lots in 1874, by Hiland Frazier. F. Bick opened the first store. John Westerhoff was appointed postmaster. Charles Howland opened the second store in 1878. The first frame house was built in the precinct by Conrad Grant, in 1870. The precinct now has 1,095 inhabitants and 155 farms, with seven school-houses, all frame.

The village of Germantown now has near two hundred inhabitants. They have just erected a fine two-story school-house. They have two large grain elevators, two general stores, one drug store, a blacksmith shop, and numerous good dwellings. The town is in a prosperous condition. The precinct has near seven miles of railroad track.

“I” PRECINCT,

Town ten, range four east, is one of the eastern precincts of the county.

The north fork of Middle creek cuts it in two unequal parts, and the south branch cuts the south-east corner.

These streams furnish ample water supply and drainage. The north-western portion is a wavy plain, and is well adapted for farming purposes; and also the valleys are very rich, producing corn and grass to perfection. The eastern portion is somewhat broken, and is well adapted for stock growing. The creeks are bright and pure water, and the banks are lined with a growth of young timber, adding a charm to the scenery.

This precinct has but two and one-half miles of railroad, but has a station at Pleasant Dale. The eastern part is only twelve miles distant from the capital, and the western part is in close proximity to Seward and Milford. They have four schools, with good frame buildings. The population is 690, with 131 farms.

Deloss Brown and old Mr. Bird, now deceased, were the first settlers of whom we have record. They each settled as early as 1863, on the south branch of Middle creek. Joseph Forest settled in 1864, and James Her about the same time; also one or two others. Abram Courtright settled on the farm near the railroad, where the stone house stands, in 1866.

"J" PRECINCT.

A Mr. Horton, Daniel Morgan, and his two sons, Louis and Thomas, were the first to make permanent settlement near where Ruby station now stands. They claim to have located in 1858, but of the correctness of this there is doubt. Evidently they were the first that made permanent homes on the North Blue in this county. Job T. Reynolds, J. C. Neihardt, Thomas L. Rogers, and Samuel Long settled in 1863. Mr. Rogers and wife have been dead many years. Mr. Long died in the early part of last year.

Blue river runs centrally through the precinct, and furnishes excellent water-powers, but there are none of them improved at this time.

According to the census reports there are 776 inhabitants, with 149 farms. They have no village, but a railroad station with a store, two elevators, and a post-office, Ruby. They have six miles of railroad and five good school-houses. They have excellent land and good farms, and are very handy to the city. They rank third in

number of farms in the county. An excellent precinct with many advantages, although no thriving village. It seems impracticable to make a town in a precinct that nearly reaches both the city and Milford, and where thirty minutes drive will reach either of them.

"K" PRECINCT.

This beautiful township has 130 farms, 672 population, six miles of railroad, and one station (Goehner). It has five school-houses, with the same number of schools, all in a prosperous condition.

This precinct is nearly all level land, and it has many of our most beautiful and valuable farms. There is but very little running water within its borders.

Goehner, its station, was platted in the fall of 1887, upon the completion of the railroad, and now it contains several business houses and several dwellings, including a depot, elevator, two general stores, two grocery stores, one hardware, and one drug store.

Abram Windsor built the first house in the precinct, in the spring of 1869. Wm., George, and Alfred Livesey made settlement the following summer. L. Allison, Martin and Edward Jensen, S. S. H. Williams, Martin Madson, C. Tunecliff, and Peter Oglesby made settlement in 1870; also some others whose names we have failed to obtain.

The progress of "K" precinct has been rapid, both in settlement and improvement. There are many very fine farm houses and good substantial barns; many excellent orchards, and over a hundred fine groves of planted timber.

This precinct can boast of the only regular cheese dairy in the county. Jerome Aldrich, near Goehner, has in successful operation a cheese dairy, in which he made and sold forty thousand pounds of excellent cheese during 1887, and he proposes to enlarge the capacity to 140,000 pounds in the near future. Mr. Aldrich finds a ready sale for his product, which is accounted number one among the dealers.

"L" PRECINCT.

Town ten, range one east, was first settled by John E. Fouse, at the crossing of Beaver creek, in 1862, where he opened a ranch on the old freight road. Mr. Fouse lived here many years in a sort of a rough-and-tumble way, trading with travelers and Indians. The

writer was at his place in 1864, and at the time the ranch was kept in an immense dug-out on the bank of the creek. There were a great many tough stories told in connection with this ranch in the pioneer days, but we will not reiterate them, as we are hardly able to vouch for their truthfulness. Mr. Fouse was a peculiar character, and his place became somewhat famous for the many tragic events there enacted. Whiskey was an important article of trade at the ranch.

Thos. Tisdale opened his little store and the post-office in 1869, and a Mr. Donovan also settled in the neighborhood about the same time. The real substantial settlement began in 1870, when the prairies began to be homesteaded. Thomas Foster built the first frame house in April. His mother, Widow Foster, and family, and F. M. Horton made settlement shortly afterwards. In 1871 there were great numbers who made settlement. The first school of which we can learn was taught by John Turner, on what is known as the Norman Cassler farm, in the summer of 1873. While "L" is one of our foremost farming precincts, it has no railroad and no village within its borders, but is happily situated convenient to four stations on two different railroads, and has a choice of markets within an hour's drive from any point. The south-western portion is somewhat rough, but the lands are good. The other and larger portion is as fine farming land as can be found anywhere. It contains 139 farms and 843 people, with five schools. The precinct has the choice of Utica, Tamora, Goehner, and Beaver Crossing for market places, and the farthest farm from a station does not exceed six miles.

"M" PRECINCT

Is the south-western geographical township of the county. Daniel Millspaw settled in 1862, just west of Beaver Crossing, on what is now J. W. Thompson's land, and opened a ranch. In 1863 John Leonard made settlement a short distance further west. In 1865 a Mr. Buzzard settled north-east of town, and Mr. G. Clark and Columbus Clark settled just to the south-east of Ross Nichols' farm, and about the same time Isaiah and Phillip Michael located on the Migatt farm, east of town. Ross Nichols came in 1869, and located on the present town site, and had a small portion of his land surveyed into a town site in 1871, its first name being Nicholasville. Smith and Ingalls opened a store, and Mr. Smith built the flouring mill the

same season. Thomas Tisdale had a little store at John E. Fouse's ranch, and was postmaster, and the store and post-office were moved to the town in the fall of 1871. They had a weekly, or *weakly*, mail carried on horseback.

Beaver Crossing was a rather dull and sleepy cross-roads trading point, where a few families have resided—two little stores, a blacksmith shop, a small hotel, and a doctor's office, with the grist-mill, and so it remained until the spring of 1887, when the building of the F., E. & M. V. R. R. was assured, then it awoke to a new life, and now all is vigor and activity. Beaver Crossing now supports a newspaper, *The Bugle*, a bank, presided over by T. E. Sanders, eight or more mercantile houses, and some pretty good ones, two large elevators, two lumber yards, two smith shops, a hotel, and two livery barns, and is growing in earnest, bidding fair to become one of the important towns of the county. A church and school-house adorn the place.

"M" precinct is abundantly supplied with water-courses, and the drainage is most thorough. The West Blue and its tributaries, Johnson creek, Indian creek, and the Beaver, furnish ample water and drainage. There is quite an amount of natural timber along these streams. The south-western portion of the precinct is a broad plain, and contains very many beautiful farms. The northern portion is somewhat broken. The population is 750, and there are 91 farms, according to the last census, but the population has increased greatly within the last year. There are six school-houses, each good frame buildings. The precinct, so long isolated and kept back by circumstances, will now take a forward step, and become from this time one of our most important possessions. The precinct has seven miles of railroad. The new town of Hunkins, named for Benj. Hunkins, is situate near the extreme south-west corner of the county in the midst of a splendid farming country, and will be an important shipping point.

"N" PRECINCT,

Part of the old historic ground of the county, is largely noticed in the valuable and instructive letter of Mr. Johnson, but there are some points that should be mentioned.

This precinct at an early day was part of Walnut Creek precinct. W. J. Thompson was the first to settle and open a ranch on Walnut

creek, in the fall of 1862. The Johnson family came in 1864, also David Barton and Samuel Englehaupt; and in 1865 the Campbells, the Wilsons, and McCrackens; and in 1869 and 1870 large numbers came—Irwin Stall, George Foster, S. C. Tremper, J. D. Blackburn, the Richardson family, and many others. The first school was taught by Miss Agnes Baily, now Mrs. C. West, at the school-house on David Bartin's farm in 1863, in what is district No. 3. The precinct has no village or post-office at present, but in the early days it had one at Walnut creek, called Welden, with S. G. Keen as postmaster, and at a later date one at Pittsburg. There was a town surveyed at Pittsburg in 1873, by Chris Lezenby, where a peat deposit had been discovered, which for a time was thought to be of great importance, but its life was ephemeral.

"N" precinct is well situated so far as markets are concerned. The southern portion is very near and handy to Friend and Dorchester, the eastern part to Milford, the western portion to Beaver Crossing, and the northern portion is within easy reach of Goehner, and it is only from ten to twelve miles to the county seat.

The 1885 census gives the precinct 748 inhabitants and 134 farms, with five frame school-houses. There is splendid water-power, but as yet it remains unimproved. There are great numbers of very superior farms and orchards.

"O" TOWN

Is happily situated, so that it takes in a long stretch of our two largest streams. The North Blue cuts the north-east corner, and the South Blue cuts the south-west corner, each stream furnishing very superior water-powers of immense capacity, and they are improved at Milford and at West's mills, yet there is ample room for more extended improvement. Had a population of 1,462 at the last census, and 146 farms, with fifteen manufacturing establishments. Has three post-offices, two flouring mills, at present only two miles of railroad, but has the track graded for about three miles additional on the Crete line down the valley. Has five schools, including one graded school, each with a good building. There are many very beautiful and tastefully arranged farms, with good buildings and orchards.

The historic town of Milford is its principal place of trade. Mil-

ford was one of the first settled portions of the county, and was for many years the leading town of the county. Held the county seat from 1867 to the fall of 1871, and was the only town in fact until the summer of 1868. Was established as a ranch and trading point in 1864. Built the bridge in the spring of 1866, and the first mill the following summer. Now has a population of near 800 souls, a central trading point with many mercantile houses; a station on the A. & N. division of the B. & M., with two very large elevators. The largest flouring mill in the state, with elevator attached, with a capacity of ninety-five thousand bushels of wheat, several fine brick blocks, the sanitarium, and the assurance of the State Industrial Home. Milford has become noted for a pleasant summer resort for tourists, where parties can fish, bathe, or take pleasure rides on the great pond, or ramble to their heart's content in the beautiful groves. Hotel accommodations are good. The surrounding scenery is very pleasant to look upon. The village is situated on a commanding hill, where the eye can feast on the beauteous landscape either northward or southward. There are very many pleasant and commodious dwellings, with several very tastefully built churches, a commodious graded school-house; maintains two banks, and many shops of different kinds, among which are two large livery barns and several implement houses. We can see many reasons why Milford should, in years to come, be a very important town, and enjoy wonderful prosperity. If she will grasp the opportunities that present themselves, she will become a fine city ere another decade.

“P” TOWN

Is old historic ground. Camden neighborhood was one among the earliest settlements. J. L. Davison located a ranch one mile west of the old bridge in 1862, and A. J. Wallingford opened one at the bridge shortly afterwards. James Johnson settled near the bridge in the spring of 1863, and also old Mr. Bingaman. The great freight trains and thousands of movers across the plains made Camden bridge a noted place, as it was a favorite camping ground. Gen. Vifquain lived just across the county line; also Mr. Stanton and James West lived a couple of miles or so west of Camden. It was a common sight to see a hundred camps in the vicinity of the bridge. All classes of people were among the throngs of passengers, some

very rich and some miserably poor. They were with all sorts of vehicles, with gilded carriages, with finely caparisoned horses, and others with an ox and a cow yoked together, with old rickety wagons; sometimes from thirty to sixty great freight wagons, with six yokes of steers to each, loaded with meat, flour, machinery, and merchandise; great droves of cattle, and once we saw an immense drove of turkeys, several thousand, wending their way to the mountains. Some of these pilgrims were of the best of people and some were of the worst. Many of them were refugees from Missouri, fleeing from the wrath that their crimes had engendered in the bloody work of that state in the early years of the war. Some of these fellows were blood-thirsty and vicious in the extreme. All classes of men carried weapons for defensive and offensive purposes, and occasionally fearful crimes were committed. Grain and hay were in great demand and brought extremely high prices. We have known corn to sell at \$2.50 per bushel, and hay to bring six cents per pound. The traffic on the road was immense, and continued to increase in volume until the U. P. railroad reached Grand Island. Then this business all ceased.

H. W. Parker and Ford Roper, of Beatrice, commenced the erection of the Camden mills and founded the village of Camden in 1866. For a time Camden seemed to be a very important point, and bid fair to be the great city of this valley, but the change in the route of the main line of the B. & M. railroad changed the whole face of matters, and killed Camden as dead as a mackerel. Mr. Parker did much to build Camden, and his mill was of incalculable benefit to the early settlers.

At the old bridge was the first post-office of the county established, and for several years Camden was the distributing point for a vast area of country. James Johnson was the first postmaster. Wm. Buchanan was the first regular merchant of the county. Thomas Graham taught Camden's first school in the winter of 1866 and 1867.

"P" precinct has much rough land, and consequently has fallen behind many other precincts in population. The census gives her 536 population and ninety-three farms. The mill was sold to Lord Jones and moved off, and now one of the finest water-powers of our state lies idle, but we trust that when the track is laid from Milford to Crete that that splendid power may attract attention. The precinct has six school-houses and one church edifice.

HISTORIC LETTER FROM THE PEN OF JAMES A. BROWN, FORMERLY
OF SEWARD, BUT NOW OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 12, 1887.

W. W. Cox:

DEAR SIR—Yours of Dec. 5th came to hand a few days ago. When I declined to write you a historical letter upon the early history of Seward county, I then hoped that you would not further insist upon my writing, as at present I have but little inclination in that way. But as you still insist that I *must* do it, I will attempt to record some of my first experiences connected with my making a home in Seward county. In February, 1866, as I was on my way from Leavenworth, Kan., to Denver, Colo., and while waiting at Fort Kearney for teams enough to get together to make a train large enough to defend ourselves from the Indians, who were very bad at that time, I became acquainted with Ramsey Grant, who lived on the south side of the Platte, opposite Columbus, and who was afterwards killed by the Indians. He described to me in glowing terms the country, to such an extent that I promised to visit him on my return from Denver, and take a look at his country. In the month of April, 1866, I came down and spent a few days with him, and spent the time in looking at the country. While there I heard that a settlement had been started on the Blue River to the south of them, and that there was considerable timber there, which was a main consideration, as the soil was good everywhere in the country. I resolved to go and see it, and when I saw it considered it good, and resolved to remain and help develop it.

I found in the north half of the county the following families, at the time of my visit: David Imlay, Sen., and two unmarried sons and a daughter, and being a bachelor, I “corralled” the daughter, and whether it was for my everlasting happiness or eternal misery is none of your business;* Wm. Imlay, W. W. Cox, R. T. Gale, E. L. Clark, Sen., Thomas Dunaway and Mother, Richard Sampson, Lewis Moffitt, J. N. Roberts, Thomas Skillman, John Durland, and F. E. Pitt. A number of other families came in that spring, among whom were the Hagamans, E. L. Ellis, John Roberts, Sen., J. C. Sampson; and in the fall a few more families arrived—Roger Cooper, Wm.

* The author happens to know that Mr. Brown made no mistake in choice of a wife.

Cooper, E. B. Shafer, and Geo. W. Rogers. There were also a few people at the Oak Groves, among whom were J. D. Main, Mr. John A. Scott, and a few others, I think, but am not positive about it, as I did not become acquainted over there the first year. After that year it would be difficult to keep track of all that came.

In April, 1867, the river was higher than I ever saw it afterwards, caused by the heavy snows of the previous winter, which was the coldest winter that I ever saw there or anywhere else. In fact it was terrible, and as the people had poor houses, I was glad there were no more of them at the time. In 1867 there was a good crop of wheat and some corn and vegetables, but the grasshoppers got most of the corn. With the experience of the winter before, and with the time to prepare for it, the people were in better condition for the next winter, which being a mild one in comparison with the preceding one, but little suffering was experienced.

In the summer of 1868 the first buildings were erected on the town site of Seward. I think there were five that year, and on the Fourth of July a few of the people congregated on the public square and *elevated* a pole that was used as a flag staff for a number of years. Yearly additions were made to the town by buildings and people, till at present it has become as fine an inland town as can be found in Nebraska, Lincoln excepted. As I notice that you have described the county seat troubles I will not mention them.

In August, 1869, Mr. S. G. Mathewas and T. L. Norval first made a visit to Seward. At that time "Op," now the honorable judge of the sixth judicial district of Nebraska, looked like a school boy just out of school, but since that time he has acquired enormous proportions. The Norval Bros. were among the first attorneys who located in Seward, though F. M. Elsworth was there about a year before, but we had but little use for lawyers, as it took all we could make to feed ourselves, and as to clothing, we will not mention the "old rags" that we covered our nakedness with, for we were truly what the people of Colorado called the Nebraskans when meeting them on the plains, "ragged Nebraskans." In fact the name was applicable to us for a number of years after I went there, and I do not think I should feel at home in Nebraska now unless I could be allowed to let my rags float in the breezes as of yore.

I omitted to chronicle the advent of H. L. Boyes and family in the

fall of 1867, who started a saw-mill, I think in the following summer, which was a great convenience to the people in getting lumber to make themselves and stock more comfortable. Said saw-mill afterwards gave place to a flouring mill, which enabled the people to feed themselves better. All the people owe Father Boyes a debt of gratitude for first providing them with means to erect houses and then with bread, and may he and his estimable lady long live to sit upon their porch and listen to the whir of the old mill wheel, and enjoy the society of their hosts of friends. While the people had grasshoppers to contend with, Mr. Boyes had the Blue river to watch during freshets. His first grist-mill was so ruined as to be comparatively worthless, but the old man had the "sand" in his crop, and went to work with energy and rebuilt the structure, which he has again replaced with the present splendid structure to take the place of the old saw-mill. In the freshets above mentioned the people were frequently put to straits by the bridges on the streams washing out, when they would often have to travel many miles to cross the river, or swim it. A little cottonwood skiff that I made in the spring of 1867 aided a great many people to cross the river, which they otherwise could not have done.

Although we were all poor, and at times had hard work to make ourselves comfortable, yet I think we enjoyed ourselves as well as Claudius Jones does to-day with his fine houses and barns and premium Short-horns and untold treasures. This teaches us that wealth is not indispensable to happiness.

In the year 1874 the whole country west of the Missouri river suffered severely with drouth, which nearly annihilated the corn and vegetable crop, but the grasshoppers came in August and took what the drouth had not already destroyed, and unjustly the loss of the whole crop was charged to them.

Since 1876 the grasshoppers have not visited the state, and from that time Nebraska can date the dawning of her prosperity. With her fine soil, even if the climate is at times severe, it must soon rank as an agricultural state second to none. But as Hon. Geo. Geddes remarked some years ago, in a communication to the *New York Tribune*: "Any country that will produce grass will sustain a population," and Nebraska has become a better grass producing country, especially for the tame grasses, than the most sanguine dared hope

for fifteen years ago. With the surety of producing cheap food for stock, Nebraska must ever take rank among the first as a stock producing state, and the people of all stock countries may at least become independent.

I have written more than I first intended. I mean more words, but I fear that when you come to use the critic's eye of a *historian* you will find but little that you can use in your book. I hope you will thus treat it, for this is not intended for publication without such treatment, as I hardly know what to write, my not knowing what you have written, but if I have even furnished you with some ideas and expressions I shall be pleased.

I hope some day to visit Nebraska again, as, "with all her faults, I love her still," even if I do like the winters of Southern California better. With my best wishes for the success of your efforts, and for the future of that fair land and her prosperity,

I am yours,

JAMES A. BROWN.

LETTER FROM E. W. OLNEY, OF "A" TOWN.

December 18th, 1887.

W. W. Cox:

DEAR SIR—John A. Scott located on his claim on section twenty, township twelve, range four east, in the spring of 1864, and John Owens settled on section twenty-eight in the summer of 1864. Asa Munn made settlement on section two in 1866; John Royce on section twenty-eight, J. D. Maine and J. D. Olney on section twenty-two, Warren Brown on section twenty-three. Royal Dart settled on section thirty-two in 1867; S. M. Darnall on section twenty-two, and John Darnall on section twelve, the same year.

The first school was taught by Miss Sarah A. Scott, on the Jack Royce place, in a log school-house, in 1867. Rev. George Clapp preached the first sermon in the old log school-house, in the same year. Rev. Robert Rowbottom organized the first church (M. E.) in 1875.

Until 1869 we had to go to Lincoln for our mail. At that time an office was established. G. B. Hardenburg was our first postmaster, and held his office in the old house of Milton Langdon, on section twenty-one. A steam saw-mill was established in 1868, by Kirkam

and Hughes, and proved of great help to the people. Our mail was carried by a buckboard first, and later by a stage.

Our growth and progress have been slow but sure. Our growth has been steady. Quite a number of the first settlers have passed off the stage of action, among whom were Milton Langdon and wife, Mrs. Gillman Garland, David Hawkins, J. D. Maine and wife, and Simeon Munn.

This region has always been known as the Oak Groves, and it is quite historic ground. It is unlike any other portion of the county. The land is what we term rough or broken, has many quite deep cañons, and each of these has a beautiful rippling brook of clear spring water. Excellent springs are numerous. When the settlement began in 1864, these cañons were all thickly set to oak timber. This timber was hauled to the salt works for fuel, and to the tableland for all purposes, and finally, when the capital was located at Lancaster (Lincoln), scores of teams were kept busy hauling wood, and before the cars had reached the new city, these fine groves were all, or nearly all destroyed. There was a vast amount of valuable timber all through this section of country, and it seems sad that it should have been so ruthlessly destroyed. Many of these hills are full of a very superior quality of limestone. Many kilns of lime were burned, and the lime found a market at Lincoln, Seward, and throughout the farming region roundabout. While this is not deemed as desirable for farming purposes as the level plain to the westward, yet we have very many excellent farms in the valleys, and for stock purposes our advantages are unsurpassed.

We have three railroad stations within easy reach—Germantown, on the B. & M., Raymond, on the U. P., and "B," on the Northwestern.

Our soil is excellent, our water is of the very best, and abundant, and we generally have happy and comfortable homes. How we got our start of hogs was related by Mr. Cox, the author of this book. There was an old Missourian, we forget his name, wanted to get his hogs out of reach of the soldier boys in war time, so in about the spring of 1863, he drove forty or fifty shoats up to the Groves, moved his family along with them, and sojourned there while the war clouds hung heavily over Missouri. The hogs, like the family ran wild, and were rather more untractable, and when the old man

found it convenient to move again the hogs were faring so well in the timber and tall weeds that they concluded not to move on uncertainties; they would rather stay, and they did stay. So the early settlers found the timber full of fat hogs, and they did not suffer for meat; and frequently an old sow with a fine litter of pigs was captured, and a start of hogs was secured.

LETTER FROM MRS. H. W. PARKER.

BEATRICE, Nov. 28, 1887.

Mr. W. W. Cox:

DEAR SIR AND FRIEND—Mr. Parker received your letter, and being very much engaged in a public way, as city councilman, etc., and just on the eve of his departure for California on a visit, he has delegated me to answer yours.

I am truly interested in your letters of "Then and Now," and am very willing to contribute my remembrances if they will add interest to your work, but I have forgotten exact dates and have not the faculty of condensing and making brief my letters, so as to be suitable for publication, but I will do the best I can.

At one time (perhaps you remember), the Camden Mills was a popular resort for social and Christmas parties, dances and New Year's gatherings, etc. One time at a large dance, when there were over a hundred and fifty people present, after the dance Major Strunk read a beautiful poem, after which he read a notice which a Methodist circuit preacher had handed me, giving notice that there would be preaching at the Mill two weeks from the following Sunday, and requesting as large a turn out as was there on the present occasion. The result was we had a large congregation, but it was hard to get a second audience, for in those days they came from ten miles distant and seemed to be attracted by amusement and recreation, rather than *stale would-be preaching*; but we were all interested in having good singing and enjoyed that part immensely. In those days there were no paid chorister or select singers, but all the audience joined whether they could sing or not. Ha! Ha!

The raising the mill, the washout, the high water, the losing of all our lumber, so that we had to live in a dugout two years more, made a deep and feeling impression on my mind. Propping up the

roof of our dugout with six or eight posts inside, to keep the roof from falling in, and burying us up with the wagon loads of sod and soil that formed the roof.

FLEAS.

For six months I know I suffered torture enough to atone for the sins of a life-time. Did I believe in eternal punishment I should say fleas had filled the bill.

The venison, elk, and antelope meat were pleasant attractions with our Indian friends, who camped one winter for about three months near Camden. The squaws used to come over and cut wood for us. At one time I had two chopping wood at the door, and I had the papooses strapped on their boards and kept inside for me to watch. When they cried, the squaws would motion me to tilt the board, and the little fellows would go to sleep.

There were many little incidents of interest, but 'twas so long ago that I cannot remember them well enough to fix them up in shape to put them into print. I forget their proper connections.

It was not me that Lawyer P. pulled the bed clothes from, but my hired girl, Miss Anna Bingaman, now Mrs. Dan Harris. I had not yet retired, but I was terribly frightened that night, and I have had a dislike for some of those folks ever since.

Fordyce Roper and my husband (Hiram W. Parker) built the first saw and grist-mill in the county, in 1865 and 1866, at a cost of \$15,000. High water delayed the completion of the grist-mill by washing out the dam and cutting out a perfect race around the mill, submerging their lumber yard, carrying down the river \$2,000 worth of lumber. But with indomitable energy and will to overcome obstacles, such as losses and high prices of machinery, etc., the mill was finally completed and in successful operation, turning out good flour, which caused general rejoicing of all the settlers for many miles around, who had been compelled to go from fifty to sixty miles to mill. We had to board mill-wright, carpenters, and other hands more than a full year, instead of two or three months as we had expected, produce being extremely high. For potatoes we had to pay \$3 per bushel, 40 cents for butter, and I remember we paid Uncle Billy Stanton 27 cents per pound for bacon; coffee, sugar, flour, and all other provisions in proportion. We paid the commonest carpenter \$2 per day and board, and the mill-wright much more, and this

was what swelled the expense of the mill. We paid \$3 per day for our sawyer, \$3 per week for kitchen girl, and we had no spacious mansion, our home being a dug-out. I do not remember the date they got to making flour. I know they had just succeeded in getting the three-story frame up the day before the ice went out of the river, which was in March, 1866. I know they felt safe, as the river was clear of ice, but the water kept rising for three days, which we could not account for, but when weeks had elapsed news reached Camden that there had been continuous rains on the heads of the river. This was explained too late for us to remedy the destruction of the property by the flood.

FROM THE PEN OF I. M. K. JOHNSON.

Thomas West and family, consisting of his wife, Catharine, and sons, Cornelius, Thomas, John, Charles, and James, and daughter, Isabella, settled at West Mills on the West Blue, in the spring of 1860. They had many hardships to endure in 1861; their log cabin, together with about all their worldly goods except a few cattle, were burned by the Indians, supposed to be Omahas disguised as Sioux. This was in the fall, and the family suffered great hardships during the following winter. The Indians were very troublesome, and stole much of Uncle Tommy's crops of that year. With the exception of the families of Orin Johnson and James West, who lived near, there was no settlement nearer than Victor Vifquain, near the forks of the Blue, and the Morgans on the North Blue, from eight to ten miles distant.

Their place of trade was Nebraska City, eighty-two miles distant. Uncle Tommy started a supply store (this was in 1862, according to the best information attainable), and once a month sent a team for supplies of such goods as were in demand by frontiersmen. An invoice of a load of goods would read about as follows: Powder, two kegs; lead, from one to two hundred lbs.; percussion caps, from one to two hundred boxes; one bbl. whiskey, flour, bacon, one hundred lbs. tobacco, fifty or a hundred traps, and some miscellaneous articles. When roads were good a trip could be made in five days. Although the Indians committed many atrocities on the Platte and the Little Blue, and were very threatening, Uncle Tommy's family never deserted their home nor abandoned it during the darkest hours, but in

times of great danger guarded their stock and goods as best they could, and at last got on such good terms that they were able to do a thriving trade with the Indians. They buried their son John in 1862. This was a sad affliction. This was probably the first white person buried in the county. John was buried in what is now West Mills cemetery.

Mr. West built a saw-mill, and put in a small burr and ground corn as early as the summer of 1864.

He is remembered by all the old settlers as a genial, kind-hearted man. The latch string of his cabin door was always out, and no one in want ever called on him in vain. By his energy a post-office was established in 1865 at the mill and store. He was elected county clerk at the first organization in 1865. He died in 1879, and was buried beside his son, being followed to the grave by all his old neighbors as mourners of one they had known to love and respect. His widow followed him to the tomb in the winter of 1885. These dear old people have gone to the better world, leaving very many sad hearts at their departure. Uncle Tommy acted well his part in the development of this new land, and for the many acts of kindness shown he will ever be remembered by all the earlier settlers.

(The author of this little book has a very warm place in his heart for the memory of the kind old people.)

Uncle Tommy and family came from Maryland to Missouri, thence to Nebraska. They started for California to seek gold, but became disgusted with the company that they started with, and left it, and made their home in this wilderness. His son Charles lives now on the old farm, and James and Thomas live within a mile. Isabella, now Mrs. Orin Johnson, still lives on a homestead which her husband settled upon in 1861. Her husband went to Oregon many years ago, and has not been heard from since he left, and it is supposed that he is dead. Cornelius lives in Missouri. Orin Johnson's family lost several children in an early day—1867—with the measles. Only two of the children yet live, and they, Fanny and Ida, are living with their mother. There was no doctor nearer than Salt Basin. A messenger was sent, and made the round trip, fifty-six miles, in eight hours, bringing back a Frenchman who claimed to be a doctor, and the people expected that he knew his business. He proved to be a fraud in all but his charges. All the children whom he doctored died.

In the years 1864 and 1865 settlers began to locate all along the West Blue valley. At that time the idea prevailed that the uplands were worthless for cultivation. It was thought that the showers only followed the valleys of the streams, and that the high prairies could not be made to produce grain. The early settlers on Salt creek used to say that it never rained twenty miles west of Salt creek.

William J. Clark moved to his homestead just below West's mill in 1862. Mr. Clark came from New York state to Illinois, when Chicago was about the size of Seward. He run a fishing boat on the lake until he moved to Seward county. He had buried his wife at Chicago, and was accompanied to this county by his three daughters. Mr. Clark proved to be a thrifty and successful farmer. He raised a large amount of vegetables and supplied the travel on the great road. He was a model frontiersman. He had had the misfortune to have his right hand crippled, yet he could do and did about as much work as other men. Mr. Clark died in 1886, leaving quite a handsome property and some money in the bank for his daughters. He was highly respected by all his neighbors, and mourned by a host of friends.

Samuel Englehouft and wife (Amanda) and their five children, Ellen, Mary Anne, George, Daniel, and Albert, moved to this county in the spring of 1865. Alice, their younger daughter, was born here in 1865. Albert died in October, 1882. When they arrived in Seward county they had only a team and wagon, a few sacks of corn meal, and not a dollar in money. He bravely went to work and raised a patch of sod corn, and worked in Mr. West's mill, and in a few years became well to do. He was very fond of hunting; was an excellent neighbor and well respected. He died September 16, 1885, and was buried in the cemetery bearing his own name, leaving his aged widow, who, with her son George, still lives on the old homestead. The other children are all married and doing well. The family originally came from Pennsylvania to Manona, Illinois; from there to Vinton, Iowa, thence to Nebraska. It is said to the credit of the family that no one was ever permitted to leave their house hungry.

Jesse R. Johnson and wife, Rachel, with family, William P. and Clara B., came to their present home, two and a half miles above West's mills, in 1864. Mr. Johnson came from Cincinnati in an

early day to Illinois. At the time they settled in Seward county, provisions were scarce and high in price, and times were very hard, but by great energy the family lived it through until brighter days dawned, and now they are the happy possessors of a goodly heritage, having a fine farm and a magnificent orchard that has been bearing fruit for many years. He was the first (we believe) to plant an orchard in the county. Fruit was a hobby with him, and he always insisted that this would prove to be a splendid fruit county. Others watched his success, and now this county compares very favorably with any portion of Nebraska or the West. Mr. J. served several terms as justice of the peace, and was the first elected in the south part of the county. He was a good hunter and trapper and his table never was without meat. The furs and pelts secured were a source of profit. Through his energy school district No. 3 was formed, and a log school-house, which still stands as a landmark, was built mostly by himself. This old school-house stands on the farm of David Barton. His daughter Clara is now Mrs. A. C. Smith, and lives in the same neighborhood.

James West, brother of Thomas West, and his wife, Margaret, settled on a nice farm in the vicinity of his brother's farm in the spring of 1860. They then had two daughters, Eliza and Kate. Alexander, their oldest son, was born November 7, 1860, and was the first white child born in the county. Alexander continued his residence in the county until the fall of 1887, or about twenty-seven years. The father and all the family, consisting at present of eight children, moved to Kansas, whither they were followed by the kindly wishes of all the neighbors. Mr. West was a very generous man, and any weary stranger found a hearty welcome under his roof. The family had their full share of privations and hardships of a frontier life.

David Barton moved to the neighborhood in the spring of 1864; was, and still is, a bachelor, but built a log house on his homestead; came with but a pittance, and has been remarkably successful; is now the owner of a large estate, and is at this time the heaviest taxpayer of "N" precinct. Mr. Barton came from England, in 1858, almost a penniless lad, and by his industry and careful management he has acquired a handsome fortune, although a generous man. Young men may take pattern of him. Mr. B. has no relative in this county.

Israel M. K. Johnson, son of Jesse R. Johnson, followed his parents to the new home in July, 1865, and took a homestead. He had just returned from the army, where he had served three years; first in Company K, 138th Ills. Vol., and afterwards in Company E, 34th Ills. Israel was fond of hunting and trapping, and in company with the West boys he frequently made long trips to the Little Blue, in Kansas, and to the Platte, and once as far as the Dismal river, where he had a close call for his scalp. As he had been through the war, he had become somewhat reckless. He often guided trains to Denver, was a success as a buffalo hunter, and never returned from the chase empty-handed. At this time they were plentiful some distance westward, but only occasionally one would appear within fifteen or twenty miles. Thomas West, Jr., killed the last one ever killed in Seward county, in 1866. Elk, deer, antelope, and wild turkeys were plentiful, and were frequently killed. "Id," as they called him, was a great hunter; his rifle or revolver was never out of reach. He thought that a man that could not take horse, gun, and blanket, and rough it for three or four weeks at a time, had no business so far west as Seward county. At one time he and Mr. McFadden had their wagon wheel and harness burned by prairie fire while a hundred miles from home on a hunt, south of Kearney, and they came home with a rawhide harness and a pole under the wagon axle. It was a hard-looking outfit, but they were glad to reach home even in this sorry plight, as it was at the time of the Indian massacre on the Platte. They had a hard fight with the Sioux, and if it had not been for timely assistance from Buffalo Bill (Hon. Wm. Cody) and his Pawnees, the Indians would have taken their scalps. They helped to bury two men, a woman, and a child that the Indians had murdered, just below Martin's ranch, on the Platte. Travel on the great roads was about suspended, on account of the Indian troubles.

Rev. L. Oliver, a Methodist minister, settled near West's mill in 1869. He had a large family. His wife died in 1871, and he in 1874. He was one of the pioneer ministers of the south part of the county. Mr. Oliver was a good man, and did much in moulding the moral and religious sentiment of the community. We are sorry that we can give so little of his history.

Abner M. Richardson came from Iowa in June, 1869, and made his home in the south part of the county. His wife (Maria) died

Sept. 19, 1885. They had lost their son Benjamin with small-pox in February, 1879. Mr. Richardson still lives on the old homestead with his children, John, Emeline, and Emarette. He is now eighty-three years old and very feeble. He has been a very industrious man. In his old age he suffers from rheumatism.

From 1867 to 1869 great numbers of homesteads were taken along the Blue. Alonzo Clark, with a large family, settled near Jesse R. Johnson; also, a man by the name of Euland; and later, George Campbell and his brother Jacob, and Andrew Davenport, from Iowa. George Campbell was a blacksmith, and was of great help to the settlement, as before this we all had to go to Camden or to Louis Morgan's, on the North Blue, ten miles away. We usually went to Morgan's, as we could get the work the same day, and at Camden there were so many mules to shoe, and so many wagons to mend for travelers on the road, that we were compelled to remain over night or make the second 'trip. Mr. Campbell was just the man we wanted. From that time our community has prospered. We boast of no large towns or cities, but we have as beautiful homes as any part of the state, and enjoy many luxuries. We had in early days to struggle for food and clothing, and were often severely pinched, and had it not been for Uncle Tommy West many of us would have been compelled to leave our homes. David Barton, W. J. Clark, Samuel Englehaupt, and my father did all that was possible to assist the people, and whether the settler had money or not, they were supplied so long as the supply lasted. Frequently corn meal was the principal diet.

Nearly all our first settlers were poor, and consequently times became very hard with them. We have known families to live a whole winter on corn meal and what rabbits they could kill with clubs. Salt was scarce, and we had to make pilgrimages to the salt basins for our supplies. On one of these trips we first became acquainted with Mr. Cox, the author of this history, but in what year we have forgotten. We do not know if he recollects or not. Our first doctor, in any reasonable distance, was Dr. Band, of Milford. The Otoes and Omahas frequently brought their whole village of tents and would camp for weeks at a time near the mill, and run all the game out of the county, so that we would not be able to kill any for our use. We then, as now, thought the only "good Indian was a dead one." But for all that, we believe they were no worse thieves than the same number of whites under no more restraints.

What a change twenty-three years has brought! New-comers to Seward county can hardly realize the wonderful changes that have occurred in these years.

HAMPTON, NEB., Nov. 27, 1887.

W. W. Cox, Esq., Seward, Neb.:

DEAR FRIEND—Your kind letter asking me to write a history of "B" precinct, in Seward county, Neb., was received several days ago. First. I did not move into that precinct until April, 1869, and there was considerable settlement there before that time. Second. I have forgotten the dates of a great many interesting events of early times. Yet, being always ready to assist a friend in any laudable enterprise, I will try to give you a few points and incidents which may assist you in your undertaking.

The precinct, as first organized, comprised township 12 in ranges 1 and 2, and the west half of range 3 east of the 6th principal meridian, being six miles wide by fifteen long, and was known as "Lincoln creek, or Plum creek, precinct." The first settlement was made along the Blue river, about 1864 or 1865, John and Thomas Shields, Robert McCrosson, and George Read being among, if not the first settlers. A few settlers also went up Lincoln creek, among the first of whom were Charles Shaffer, the Hornburgs, Jackmans, Ragans, Reynolds, and Hartmans. In 1870 I assessed this whole territory (6x15 miles) in about five days, and by going up Lincoln creek on one side and down the other, got all the inhabitants west of the Blue river. In 1868 the Hickmans (J. D., William, Joseph, J. W., and H. W.), T. J. Poore, John and Thomas Quillen, John and Peter Varner, and William Moore settled on the "divide" between the Blue and Plum creek, in what is now B precinct proper, and in 1869 F. M. Timblin, H. G. Dawley, Elias McClure, Amos Colman, William and Jesse Knight, E. H. Noxon, J. T. Davis, and James Read completed the settlement of government land on this divide (Shoestring prairie), while the Bates brothers, Amos Donaldson, Mike Dunigan, Esquire Batchelder, S. D. Love, Sabin Stanwood, and others settled the divide between Plum creek and Oak Grove.

The first school-house built in the precinct was a small sod house in the north-east corner of section 32, in the fall of 1869, and was built by the settlers, who, having no money, each did his share of breaking, hauling, and laying the sod, while some furnished poles

and brush for the roof, others a door or window frame, or door or window, and each furnished seats and desks for the scholars he had to send to school. The house was built and seated in this way, but as yet there was no way provided to warm it. A stove must be had, but how? It was decided that those having timber should cut a load of cordwood, and those who had no timber of their own should go out onto section "37" and cut a load, and they would take it to Lincoln, sell it, and buy a stove. This plan was carried out, and in the latter part of November nine wagons loaded with cordwood wended their way to Lincoln through about eight inches of snow, and returned with a second-hand wood stove, and the first school-house in the precinct was ready for occupancy.

The first term of school was taught by F. M. Timblin, and was paid for by subscription. The house was small, poorly furnished and lighted, but I doubt very much if the people ever enjoyed themselves any better, spent their evenings more profitably, or formed ties of friendship which will be more true or lasting than when they met in the little old sod school-house.

The election which decided the county seat contest was held for this precinct in a house on the hill just east of the Blue river. The river happened to be very high at that time, and the only bridges were one at Seward and one at Ulysses. In order, therefore, to get the voters out, it was necessary to have a crossing near the place of voting. For this purpose ropes were procured and logs floated to a narrow place in the river, and a "drift" or "gorge" formed on each side of the stream, and connected by boards or poles laid from one to the other; and men stayed there all day to help the timid across, while wagons ran regularly between this "crossing" and the place of voting, thus taking voters to the polls and returning them to their own conveyances on the other side of the river. Elections in those days were fully as interesting and exciting as at present. At the election to vote bonds in aid of the Midland Pacific railroad every vote in B precinct was polled except five, and these five men were not in the precinct on that day. Men drove over the precinct with two or three men in a wagon, and when they found a man who was in favor of the bonds (and they all were, but had not time to go to election), some one of the party stayed and worked in his place while the balance took him to the polls, let him vote, and returned with him.

They called this "working for the railroad," but they never got any pay for it, except the benefits derived from the building of the road.

The foregoing may assist you some in your work, and I might have added that it was in the sod school-house that the Hon. T. Y. Darnell made his maiden speech. If there is anything further, please let me know, and I will do what I can to accommodate you.

Yours respectfully,

F. M. TIMBLIN.

HISTORIC LETTER FROM THE PEN OF MRS. SARAH F. ANDERSON.

At the time of the great Indian scare of 1864, my father's family was one of the families which the Nebraska City people heard were killed. It had been rumored throughout the little settlement that there were bands of hostile Indians approaching, that they were committing great depredations wherever they went.

On Sunday morning my uncle and Thomas Shields started down the river on a scouting expedition. After an all-day search, just at night-fall they came suddenly upon an Indian camp. The men thought their time had come, but the red-skins were equally scared. There was no chance to back out, and they resolved to know whether the Indians were friendly or hostile. As they bravely approached the camp, the Indians began to halloo, "Heap good Omaha." The men then concluded to camp over night with them, and they partook of a square Indian supper. The next morning they went home satisfied that there were no hostiles in the country.

A day or two after this my father (Mr. Wm. Imlay) and his brothers were on upper Plum creek, haying, when Grandfather Imlay became frightened and hastened over to our house and said the Indians were coming upon the settlement. He then hastened home to protect his family. About 3 P.M. we saw a drove of them approaching. They were about where the B. & M. depot now stands. We were living about eighty rods above the present iron bridge. My mother, thinking to escape them, locked the cabin door, and took all the children across the creek to the spring where she kept her milk. To kill time she commenced churning. Very soon four Indians (great, big, ugly creatures) came riding up to the spring, and told mother that she was wanted over at the house. She said, "No, I

can't go. I am at work;" but they insisted in such a menacing manner that she felt obliged to yield and go. They said "Come, come," in a most determined manner. The children all clinging to her, she started, and those great, sneaking braves guarded her by one riding on each side, one before, and one behind. Poor mother and we four children had a slim show to escape. They watched our every movement, step by step. When we reached the cabin, there sat sixteen burly Indians in a circle around the door. When we came up, they all arose and saluted mother, then sat down again. They had a young Indian interpreter. As they thought they had the family all thoroughly frightened, the young Indian began in good shape to tell just what they wanted. They would like to have two cows, two sacks of flour, and some meat. Mother saw that she must guard the provisions with desperation, as they had cost such great effort, having hauled our provisions from the Missouri river. The Indians said "the Sioux are coming and will take all anyway, and we want some." "No," said mother, "we will take our cattle and provisions and go to Plattsmouth." "But," said the Indian, "they will be here to-night and you can't get away." Mother at this point began to get as much angry as frightened. "I will not give you anything. You are lying to me. If the Sioux were so close, you would all be running yourselves." At this point another brave, who had been pacing the yard, seeing mother grow so warm, picked up our axe and marched straight up to her, and threw it down at her feet. She picked it up and stood it beside her. Mother said afterward that her every hair stood on end, but knowing that Indians respect bravery, she resolved to show no cowardice. We could all see that the whole river bend was swarming with Indians. Mother said, with emphasis, "I now want you to take your Indians and begone at once." Then they said, "You are a brave squaw," and the old chief motioned to his braves and they all marched off to camp. The next day our family all went over to Plum creek and remained until things became settled.

The following winter father was at Omaha attending the legislature; and I am sure that over a thousand Indians passed our place during the winter. It required pluck to withstand the thievish beggars. Sometimes they would sneak up and peep in at the window. Then others would beg for hours to get into the house.

A great amount of snow had fallen, and shortly after father's re-

turn home a heavy winter rain inundated all the bottom lands. We all came pretty near being drowned, but succeeded in crawling out of the cabin at the rear window, at midnight, and our only refuge was a haystack, where we remained several days entirely surrounded by water, with no possible means of escape. Mr. Cox made several attempts to rescue us. First he tried to cross the river in a molasses pan, and narrowly escaped being drowned, as the wind was high and the stream was filled with floating ice. The next day he made a raft and tried to cross, but the current was so rapid that he could not manage it. It drifted against a tree where the water was ten feet deep, and the jar threw him off his balance, and the upper edge of the raft sank so that the rapid current caught it and turned the raft on its edge up against the tree. Mr. Cox caught hold of a limb of the tree and saved himself from drowning. A desperate struggle ensued, but he finally kicked and stamped until he got the raft on top of the water again, but it was wrong side up. We all then gave up hopes of getting help till the water subsided. The fourth day tall trees were chopped by father on one side and Mr. Cox on the other, and their branches interlocked, and we made our escape to his friendly cabin, where we found a kindly greeting, rest, food, and fire.

The author of the above sketch was born in Wabash county, Indiana, August 20, 1854. In 1856 her father moved to Harrison county, Iowa, and in 1858 to Cass county, Neb., and in the spring of 1863 to Salt Basin, and to his present home in April, 1864; and there on the frontier Miss Sarah grew to womanhood. She taught two terms of school in 1872, in her home district. At nineteen was married to Allen S. Anderson, one of the soldier boys that made Seward county his home after the war. Mr. Anderson enlisted in company D, 205th Penn. volunteers, and served during the war. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born four children, all girls, viz.: Jessie, Nellie, Adie M., and a young babe, Mary J. The family now have a beautiful home, only about a mile from the scenes of her childhood which she has so ably depicted.

CHAPTER VII.

SEWARD CITY—EARLY HISTORY—FIRST BUILDINGS—FIRST STORE—THE GROWTH THE FIRST SUMMER—CONDITION OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY—THE PUBLIC WELL AND WINDMILL—SAW-MILL—SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. NINE ORGANIZED—GRIST-MILL BUILT—PEDDLER'S DILEMMA—LOTS GIVEN AWAY—NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHED—CHURCHES BUILT—CLOYD'S ADDITION—HARRIS, THE BENEFactor—THE B. & M. IGNORES SEWARD AND THE COUNTY, BUT LEAVES US HARRIS—MIDLAND PACIFIC R. R.—THE BOTTOM OF THE MILL FELL OUT—THE GROWTH OF 1873—SOUTH SEWARD AND ITS EFFORT TO SUPPLANT THE ORIGINAL TOWN—INCORPORATION AS A VILLAGE—INCORPORATION AS A CITY—LIST OF TOWN AND CITY OFFICIALS—FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE CITY—POST-OFFICE AND MAIL ROUTES—FIRST SABBATH-SCHOOL—TEMPERANCE WORK—POSSIBILITIES AS A MANUFACTURING CITY—SCHOOLS—SEWARD AS WE SEE IT JANUARY 1, 1888.

SEWARD,

The county seat and principal city of Seward county, was founded by Lewis Moffitt, and surveyed as a town site in the spring of 1868, by Hon. Thomas Graham. At this time one hewed log cabin graced this beautiful plateau, which was the home of its founder, Mr. Moffitt. Lots were freely offered to those who desired to make improvements. John Roberts, Sr., built the first building for the new town. We well remember passing over the "site" one morning in June and seeing the pile of lumber lying just where Joel Tishue's store now stands, and how our heart swelled with emotion as we witnessed the signs of the coming birth of a new city; and well do we remember standing in our cabin door and watching frame after frame arise, as they appeared week after week, and rejoicing to see what we long had waited for; and how exhilarating it seemed as we would leave the field for dinner, and on approaching the house and casting our eyes toward the embryo city, we would exclaim, "Mother, just see, there is another house going up in town." We remember that David Figard helped do the carpenter work on that little store. Beaty & Davis (J. N. Beaty and W. R. Davis) were the pioneer merchants. They sold groceries and dry goods, and were right clever fellows, too;

they used to credit us, and then take their pay in butter, eggs, cottonwood lumber, fire wood, and promises, and the promises were the most plenty of any article produced in those days. I shouldn't wonder if they have some of those same promises yet.

J. N. Beaty built the first residence, and if you desire to see it just call at our house some day at dinner time and you will see the same old residence (our dining room). W. R. Davis erected the second where his house now stands, but in the march of progress it has given way for a better one. (Orlando Pierce claims his to be the third house.) Then Dr. Walker and W. H. Tuttle each commenced building about the same time. The Doctor's old house now stands on 4th street, just east of the opera house, and Mr. Tuttle's house was the beginning of what is now the Commercial House, but it was named the Blue Valley House. A public well was dug by E. L. Ellis and paid for by subscription. This old well stood in the center of the square. Some subscribed work, turning windlass, others cottonwood lumber for curbing. The well was a prime necessity to all the people, but the residents of the town were not able to pay all the cost of the well, and the farmers were invited to chip in, which they did freely. At first a bucket and windlass were used, but A. L. Strang, now of Omaha, had settled on section 9, just north of town, and he had secured an agency for the famous Halliday windmill, and he began to talk windmill for the public well. Mr. Strang had already put up one on his farm, which the people were invited to go and examine, and it being the first windmill whose sails were unfurled in all this great region, people were not slow to go and examine its work. The windmill was bargained for, by Mr. Strang being the principal subscriber to the fund. It proved to be "a thing of beauty and a joy for years."

Will the reader just imagine how things looked around here, with only eight or nine small buildings on the town site, and all the great prairie to the north and west yet almost an unbroken wilderness, with only one low water bridge on Blue river within ten miles (the one where the iron bridge now spans the river); not a grove of planted timber or a shrub, except along the water-courses; not a single legal road yet leading to the town; with but about five hundred inhabitants in the county, and nearly all of them in the southern half; no church spire yet pointing toward heaven; only a log school-house,

with turf-covered roof—and this was the situation when we went into winter quarters in December, 1868.

The spring of 1869 brought recruits. School district No. 9 was organized, and L. G. Johns built a little shanty where Butler block now stands, and the district rented it, and Mr. Johns opened a school in it. Mr. Manley built three small houses, one for a drug store, one for a hardware store, and one to live in. He painted them red, and that was the first attempt at "painting the town red." About this time H. L. Boyes & Son got their little mill to grinding grain, after a long and tedious struggle. Their saw-mill had been running the previous season, and had been of great value to the settlement. The grist-mill was a God-send to the village and country, as previous to this we had depended largely on the Camden mill, although it was five miles further from us than Milford mill. Our reasons were that the Camden folks were our fast friends, and Milford folks were our rivals, and our prejudice could easily carry us five miles through a blizzard.

We must give an incident of one of our trips to mill. In the summer of 1868 we were on the way to Camden with a load of wheat, and when nearing Clark's branch, two miles below Seward, a peddler came rushing past in a tremendous hurry, fearing, we suppose, that we would get stuck in the mud at the ford, and that he would be hindered. There was a short turn in the road just where it went down the bank, and his ponies gave a sudden spring, and over went the wagon, and Mr. Peddler went sprawling into the soft mud; his wagon-box burst, and his fine jewelry, dry goods, laces, etc., were in like fix with himself, hopelessly imbedded in the mud. We rushed to his assistance, secured the team, and helped to pick his jewelry, combs, brushes, silks, and linen out of the horrible pit and spread them on the grass, and lamented with him the sad loss, when he finally gave way to grief in the following strain: "Mine Gott! Vat shall I do? Vat shall I do? I is in debt for dese goots. Mine Gott! Mine Gott! I goes and gets a rope and hangs mineself. Mine Gott! Mine Gott!" He refused to be comforted, and when we finally left him he was still giving vent to his feelings in loud lamentations. We would like to know whether he found a rope while he was yet in the notion of hanging himself.

When the town was first platted it comprised eighty acres, the

north half of the south-west quarter of section 21, town 11, range 3 east, and was made into thirty-two blocks, including the public square, which was dedicated to public uses. Great numbers of the more valuable lots were given away in order to get improvements started. John Roberts received several valuable lots. J. N. Beaty received block 22 entire, for his residence; W. R. Davis, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ block 23, and the firm also received other valuable lots for business purposes; Tuttle received the quarter block now occupied by the Commercial House, and many others received lots, and perhaps it is not out of place to mention that W. W. Cox was presented with the lot upon which stands the Butler block, for services rendered in getting Seward started. We wish we had kept that present. Liberality and energy were manifested on every hand, and were more than anything else the cause of the success of the infant city.

The year 1869 gave us quite a number of new citizens and business enterprises. Fred Lankins opened a new general store. Mr. Humphrey put in a stock of drugs, and Manley a small stock of hardware. Charles Beaty was born in the spring of 1870, and received the gift of a lot, as an inducement to others to be born. Joel Tishue opened his store on the east side of the square. Ewing built a hotel (St. Nicholas) one block south of the square. Beaty and Davis built a new store building (now the harness-shop of Mr. Landes). Several new residences were also built, and the frame school-house. This year brought the Nebraska *Atlas*, and the Presbyterian church was built. During this summer Wm. C. Cloyd bought of Lewis Moffit the south half of the south half of the north-west quarter of section 21 (40 acres), and laid out Cloyd's Addition. Cloyd platted a great number of business lots on Jackson avenue, surrounded block 35 with business lots facing it, and made a struggle to change the business center to that point, which created strife and contention during that fall and following winter. It was Mr. Cloyd's intention to secure the location of the court-house on block 35, should we ever get the county seat. Mr. C. made a public sale in the fall of 1870, and a large number of lots were sold, at prices ranging from \$15 to \$30.

In the early spring of 1871 James H. Harris, "our one-eyed benefactor," put in his appearance and played a well-devised scheme on the proprietors and citizens. We very much dislike to be obliged in this work to be compelled to say anything that would in the least reflect

upon the life and character of the dead, and in this case we will say just as little as is possible for a historian to say and do justice to the subject. Mr. Harris was a brother of the land commissioner of the B. & M. R. R., and about this time our people were much scared on account of a project being sprung to make a railroad town just at the center of the county. With much show of plausibility, Mr. Harris represented himself to be a man of ample means, and that he was in position to make Seward or kill it; that he could bring the B. & M. company to Seward or keep it away; and he worked upon the almost panic-stricken people until they were ready and anxious to do anything to gain his influence and co-operation. The result of the final negotiations was that Mr. Moffit deeded Mr. Harris an undivided one-half of the S. E. quarter of section 20, and also the undivided half of the forty acres north of Cloyd's addition, the only consideration being his influence and an agreement that he should make all public bequests necessary in all public enterprises, and be at all the expense of surveying the same into lots, but we understand that Mrs. Moffit did exact, and obtained, a silk dress pattern. But all this magnificent gift was not enough; Mr. Roberts must be wrung into the scheme, but he came out pretty well. Mr. H. must have the south eighty of Mr. Roberts' homestead, or half interest in it. A compromise was effected by which the south half of the N. E. quarter of section 20 should in like manner be deeded to him and become a part of the new addition; but Mr. Roberts hardly ever drives a bad bargain, and he will only do it provided Mr. Harris will secure a deed in fee simple of eighty acres where Mr. Roberts lives, Mr. R. to pay only \$300 for it. Well, this is all fixed up, but our "benefactor" is not yet satisfied; he wants Mr. Cloyd's interest at other people's expense, and it would take something over \$600, and this he did not have, or if he had, he did not propose to use his own money while other people were so ready to do him any kindness. This money must be raised by popular subscription, but the people did not have money. Well, a good note would be taken. So a note of six hundred dollars was made and was presented to the business men, while the terrible B. & M. club was held over their heads, and about twenty block-heads, ourself included, signed it. The miserable sell was soon discovered, and there was some very unpretty words used and a great amount of self-abuse indulged in, but the note was in a Lincoln bank

and must be paid, or a racket would ensue. When the note became due there was some stubbornness manifest, and a suit was commenced. A large number of the signers were not to be found, and others were financially played out; still there were enough yet to fight, but after comparing notes with one another, ten of us offered to pay \$30 each, or \$300 in full satisfaction, and accept as our pay the experience.

Well, the large new addition known as Harris, Moffit & Roberts' addition was laid out, which comprises two hundred and eighty acres of land. A great number of our present residents know how valuable that *influence* has been.

But one good result followed: confidence was restored for a little while, and we all were resting under the impression that we had done something very smart, when all of a sudden we woke up to find that Mr. H. had about the same influence with the B. & M. folks as any other dead-beat; that their road would not touch Seward county, much less Seward. But this much was settled: we had Harris on our hands, and the railroad would not kill us, for it was out of reach.

This year we had the acquisition of the *Reporter*, quite a goodly number of new buildings, many new people, and in the fall by sharp turns of the wrist we got the county seat. We were naturally gathering force and wealth as the county settled around us, but the progress was slow. Our railroad bond battles occupied our time and thoughts pretty effectually during the first half of 1872, and not much was done while the railroad was an uncertainty.

[The bond fights are discussed in another place, and we pass them here.] When it became a certainty that we were to be blessed with a railroad there was a marked improvement.

We must now go back to 1870 and notice a calamity that befell the town and community. Mr. Boyes' mill had become so loaded with grain, principally grists, that the bottom fell out of it, and the community were surprised one morning to see perhaps a thousand sacks of grain and all the machinery of the mill in the river. This was a sad blow for the owners and for the community, but immediate steps were taken to rebuild the mill, and during the fall everything was set to rights and at work.

Perhaps it is well here to describe the capacity of the water-power of the river here. Mr. Boyes informs us that with only eight-foot head they have fifty horse power, and a head of sixteen feet can easily

be obtained, which would make its capacity immensely great. Mr. B. says Blue river is the most certain mill stream that he ever saw.

During the autumn of 1872 there were numerous accessions to our business houses, and great numbers of residences were also added. W. H. Tuttle built a new hotel on the corner of Seward and 8th streets (Park House); many new workshops of various kinds were opened in anticipation of the new business when the cars should arrive. A new life was infused into the community, everybody's step was more elastic, all classes of people wore smiles on their faces, property advanced rapidly in value and was ready sale. We were happy in the anticipation of a glorious future.

Just as the sun began to shine out brightly in the early spring of 1873, we were gladdened by the whistle of the locomotive. "Oh! was sound ever so sweet!" Inasmuch as the situation was discussed in a former chapter we will only add points not mentioned there. We rejoiced that we had a railroad, and it was a great blessing to us, although it cost us a large sum of money, yet it was worth much more to us than the cost. In other words, we made a good bargain, and yet our freight and passenger tariffs were scandalously high. The fare to Lincoln was \$1.25, and freight on wheat, our staple product, was fifty-four cents per hundred pounds in car lots to Chicago, and all other rates correspondingly high.

The depot being placed at the foot of the hill, near Boyes' mill, Mr. Boyes thought wise to lay out what should properly have been an addition to Seward, but it was platted as an independent town and named South Seward, and what was still more strange, a margin was left between the new town and the old of sixty feet, which has been known as the "dead line." There were some other peculiarities about the new town. The proprietor carefully left his mill and his own residence outside of the platted town. There was great energy displayed on the part of the proprietor and the new-comers to overshadow the old village. Several grain houses were erected, a mammoth lumber yard (Mohawk) was opened, and a large hotel erected by Geo. Boyes; also great numbers of dwellings; and it having the depot, mill, grain houses, and the great lumber yard, they had some show to rival Seward, but their efforts all proved abortive. Seward was too firmly planted and deep rooted to be overshadowed by a sprout of a summer's growth. South Seward, however, was very

tenacious of life, and although her greatness (what she had) and all her expectations were gone, yet she maintained her separate organization for many years, and never united her destinies with the city until May 30th, 1885, when she became attached, "dead-line" and all, to the city, and henceforth she is a part of our city.

Having noted in the "Reminiscences" the more important events in the growth and advancement, and as there are special chapters on the more noteworthy institutions of the city, and on the city government, which will comprise as much of interest as it would be possible to crowd into the limited space, we refer the reader to the interesting chapters furnished by able pens of the history of our churches, schools, G. A. R. post, Odd Fellows, and Masons; also chapters on post-office, agricultural society, etc., etc., and finally the closing chapter on Seward as we see it January 1, 1888.

INCORPORATION OF SEWARD AS A VILLAGE

Occurred in the first days of April, 1870. (The records are conflicting: in one place they say April 2d, and in another they say April 5th.) The county commissioners passed an order as the statute provides declaring the village incorporated, and Dr. L. Walker, F. F. Larkins, W. R. Davis, Geo. Crumb, and Sam Manly were appointed trustees, and O. T. B. Williams, attorney for the corporation.

June 5, 1871, we find S. E. Ewing and Wm. Olmstead on the board, but can find no record of their election. We also find W. B. Thorpe, clerk, L. Parish, marshal, H. A. Lewis, treasurer, H. P. Kennard, assessor, and Thomas Darnall, attorney. Street commissioner, E. W. Clinton.

May 10, 1872, L. G. Johns, W. H. Tuttle, V. Daniels, Sam Stevenson, and H. Diers took the oath of office as trustees, and at their first meeting O. T. B. Williams was elected clerk, Geo. Whiting, marshal, and I. B. Compton, fire warden. O. T. B. Williams was also elected assessor.

March 20, 1873, the council voted an appropriation of fifty dollars for a free dinner to a party of Lincoln excursionists.

May 5, 1873, Wm. Hays, Vinal Daniels, T. L. Norval, Herman Diers, and Sam Stevenson were elected trustees. Sam Stevenson was elected chairman of the board on the tenth ballot; L. G. Johns, treasurer, O. T. B. Williams, clerk. J. W. McCabe was elected marshal.

September 22, 1873, R. S. Norval took the census of the town, and his returns show a population of five hundred and seventy-five.

September 24, 1873, ordinance No. 28, organizing Seward as a city of the second class, was offered by T. L. Norval and adopted, and an election was ordered for October 18, 1873, for city officers. At said election A. Castle was elected mayor, W. R. Davis, police judge, J. W. McCabe, marshal, T. L. Norval, clerk, V. Daniels, city engineer, and W. B. Thorpe, treasurer. Thos. Graham and A. J. Combs, councilmen in 1st ward, and Wm. Leese and J. R. Paul in the 2d ward.

The city council passed their first ordinance January 2, 1874, providing for a poll tax.

Feb. 17th, a resolution of inquiry in regard to protection from fire was passed, in which they required of J. N. Edwards that he furnish information about the cost of a dozen rubber buckets, 48 feet of ladder, and some other tools, etc.

April 7, 1874, the following persons were elected city officers: Thos. Graham, mayor; T. J. Hamilton, police judge; S. H. Marshall, city engineer; N. C. Rogers, clerk; Wm. Wright, marshal; W. B. Thorpe, treasurer; Sam Stevenson and Joel Tishue, councilmen in 1st ward; J. M. Strong and Ed. McIntyre, in the 2d ward.

Nov. 23d, city council voted to donate their salary to the city on account of hard times.

Recapitulation of the financial condition of the city since it was incorporated:

Warrants drawn to date.....	\$1387 52	
Amount warrants canceled.....		\$674 54
Amount outstanding to balance.....		712 98
Delinquent tax of 1873.....	122 61	
Delinquent tax list of 1874.....	559 53	
Total.....		682 14
Amount in treasury.....		106 24
Total resources.....		<u>\$788 38</u>

Dated March 30, 1875.

At the April election of 1875 the following persons were elected to fill the various offices: Ed. McIntyre, mayor; S. B. Mills, judge; W. B. Thorpe, treasurer; T. L. Norval, clerk; J. W. Gladwish,

marshal; R. S. Norval and H. W. Hagaman, councilmen in 1st ward; and H. W. Ragan and J. F. Goehner, councilmen for 2d ward.

During 1875 the grades of the principal streets were established.

April 8, 1876, the following persons were declared elected city officers: I. B. Sarter, mayor; Thos. Osborne, marshal; F. H. Newton, clerk; William Leese, police judge; E. A. Polly, city engineer; W. B. Thorpe, treasurer; James Reed, councilman for 1st ward; J. F. Goehner, councilman for 2d ward.

Amount of taxes, including licenses and fines, during 1876, \$3,196.39.

April, 1877, E. McIntyre was again elected mayor; J. D. Edwards, clerk; police judge, O. T. B. Williams; treasurer, A. J. Callender; marshal, Wm. Ashton; street commissioner, R. McCrosson; councilmen, N. C. Rogers and H. W. Ragan.

And in 1878, T. L. Norval, mayor; clerk, J. D. Edwards; councilmen, John Kribbler, S. W. Long, and I. B. Sarter; treasurer, L. G. Johns; police judge, L. W. Hart.

In 1879, mayor, E. K. Dunbaugh; police judge, J. D. Edwards; clerk, J. L. McPheely; treasurer, W. R. Herrick; councilmen, J. S. Henderson and T. E. Saunders.

In 1880, C. W. Berekley, mayor; J. D. Edwards, clerk; L. G. Johns, treasurer; police judge, T. L. McClean; councilmen, S. R. Douglass, L. Walker, R. R. Shick, and J. G. Berdrow.

In 1881, W. O. Whitcomb, mayor; E. A. Polly, clerk; police judge, J. L. McPheely; treasurer, T. E. Sanders; councilmen, W. E. Chapin, J. Tishue, and Herman Diers.

In 1882, W. O. Whitcomb, mayor; T. E. Sanders, clerk; treasurer, Wm. Leese; councilmen, J. S. Henderson and R. E. Dunphy.

In 1883, Whitcomb was for the third time elected mayor; clerk, A. J. Callender; treasurer, J. N. Edwards; councilmen, John Mulfinger and John Zimmerer.

In 1884, mayor, W. R. Davis; clerk, C. S. Alling; treasurer, J. N. Edwards; police judge, Frank P. Pingree; councilmen, Samuel Welch and T. E. Sanders.

In 1885, O. C. Reynolds, mayor; clerk, C. W. Bain; treasurer, J. N. Edwards; police judge, Louis Stahl; councilmen, G. A. Merriam and J. C. Mulfinger.

In 1886, Ed. McIntyre, mayor; clerk, C. W. Bain; treasurer, J. N. Edwards; police judge, I. D. Neihardt; councilmen, J. H. Betzer and Peter Goehner.

In 1887, Ed. McIntyre, mayor; clerk, G. F. Dickman; police judge, I. D. Neihardt; treasurer, J. N. Edwards; councilmen, Samuel Pence and J. C. Mulfinger.

POST-OFFICE AND MAIL FACILITIES THROUGH THE YEARS OF SEWARD'S LIFE.

In 1864, 1865, and 1866, the settlers of this vicinity got their mail in a sort of hap-hazard way. Some of it was directed to Camden, some to Lancaster, and some to Nebraska City, and perhaps some to Plattsmouth; and it was the custom for every person visiting any of the offices to enquire for all the neighborhood.

In the winter of 1866-67 the citizens met and consulted about getting a post-office. It was urged that Lewis Moffitt ought to take the office, as he lived on the prospective town site, but he declined the honor, and the settlement was nonplussed and did not know just what to do.

During that winter the writer took it into his head that he would try and find a solution to the question, and wrote to our delegate in congress (John Taffe) and begged him to go over to the department and secure the appointment of Lewis Moffitt as postmaster for Seward, Neb., which he immediately proceeded to do, and all of a sudden Mr. Moffitt received his appointment. He felt sold, but it would not do to back square out, so he qualified and accepted the inevitable; and when he fully realized the munificent salary of \$1 per month or twelve dollars year he became fully reconciled. Now we had a post-office, but no mail route. Government allowed two dollars per quarter for mail service, but men were not quite so anxious for place then as now, and we had to hold out other and better inducements. So we made up a pony purse sufficient to pay one dollar and fifty cents per week, and hired E. L. Clark, a one-armed soldier, to make the trip once a week to Camden at the freight road. Mr. Clark made his trips on foot and carried the mail in an old haversack, so we were pretty well supplied with mail facilities, but it cost many of us pretty dearly. Mr. Moffitt retained the office until July, 1868, when he resigned his lucrative trust to W. R. Davis. Mr. Davis

held the office in the store of Beaty and Davis. His salary was twelve dollars per year at first, but under fine manipulation an advance to twenty-five dollars was soon secured. At that time the pay of the postmaster was gauged by the amount of postage sold, and friend Davis urged everybody to take just as many postage stamps as possible in the way of change, etc. He had to make a good showing and he did. Postage stamps were good property and everybody had plenty of them.

Our first government mail route was established in July, 1869, between here and Lincoln, *via* the Oak Groves. At first it was a *weakly* concern, and within the following year it became a semi-weekly, and finally a tri-weekly. Some said it was tri-weekly because they tried every week to get mail through but frequently failed. Mr. Davis retained the office until the spring of 1871, when he resigned and E. L. Clark secured the appointment. The salary had advanced to fifty dollars per year under Mr. Davis' administration, and his last quarter had shown such an increase of business that the salary was raised to \$240 per year, and in 1872 it was further advanced to \$320. L. G. Johns was appointed in January, 1873, and held the office until January, 1877. His salary was increased by degrees until it reached \$1,300 per annum and \$240 per year for clerk hire. When he took possession there was one daily mail from Lincoln. During 1873 railroad mail service was introduced. There were established during his administration star routes as follows: To York, tri-weekly; Crete to Columbus, tri-weekly; Orton and Stromsburg, semi-weekly; Seward and Dorchester, tri-weekly.

Money order office was established in July, 1872. The largest money order business was done in 1873, prior to the opening of our first bank.

When Mr. Johns took possession the fixtures of the office consisted of a desk and a case of pigeon-holes worth about \$20. He placed about \$300 worth of fixtures in the office.

Redford received his appointment in January, 1877, and held the place about four years, when Chas. Vanpelt received the appointment, in 1881. During Mr. V.'s tenure the Morris keyless lock was introduced into the office. During his term the salary was at the maximum, or \$1,700 per annum, where it remains to the present.

There were two semi-weekly star routes until about 1884, and there were during his whole term four daily mails by rail.

John Kittle received his appointment July 1, 1885. Star routes all closed. Six daily mails, and arrangements nearly perfected for two more. Present value of fixtures, about \$2,000, having just put in a new and most complete outfit of improved Morris lock boxes, which is said to be one of the finest in the West. Box rent now amounts to \$170 per quarter. Money order business is about \$2,000 per quarter.

Thus we have endeavored to trace as nearly as possible, step by step, our post-office business and mail service, through all its stages from the beginning of our settlement here until the present.

We cannot close this chapter without a word in regard to other post-offices in the county.

The first office was established at the old Camden bridge, just by the south line of the county and at the forks of the river, at the old ranch, in 1863.

We now have eleven offices, viz.: Seward, Milford, Pleasant Dale, Ruby, Germantown, Tamora, Utica, Staplehurst, Orton, Marysville, Beaver Crossing, and three new offices that will come into existence ere this will be read, viz.: "B," Goehner, and Hunkins, each on the F., E. & M. V. road.

FIRST SABBATH-SCHOOL IN SEWARD.

In the month of May, 1866, a union Sabbath-school was organized at the log cabin of Lewis Moffitt. The families engaged in the enterprise were Grandfather Imlay's, Rev. E. L. Clark's, R. T. Gale's, Wm. Imlay's, Mr. Moffitt's, and W. W. Cox's. We believe this was the first Sabbath-school between Lancaster (Lincoln) and Denver. The school was a success and produced excellent results. Previous to this, meetings for Bible reading had been held at the different houses in the neighborhood.

There are now in the county about thirty Sabbath-schools in flourishing condition. Most of them have good libraries and nearly all of them maintain their schools all the year.

TEMPERANCE WORK.

Temperance work commenced at a very early day in the history of Seward county. As early as 1869 a lodge of Good Templars was organized in the old school-house, and flourished for a number of

years, exerting a wide and salutary influence, especially on the younger people. We remember that many people were regular attendants who lived from seven to ten miles distant. About the same date there was a lodge instituted at Milford. In 1874 a lodge of Sons of Temperance was started and did good work, which was followed by another Good Templars' lodge.

In 1874 the women's crusade was made, and created a wide interest. Many of the best Christian ladies of the city united in their efforts to suppress the liquor traffic, by visiting daily the saloons and earnestly pleading with the saloon-keepers and their customers. These ladies would fervently pray with these abandoned men, and implore them in the name of their divine Master to abandon their ungodly ways, and lead better lives. These efforts were persevered in for about six weeks, and exerted a good influence. It was sowing good seed, and it did not all fall on stony places, but some found lodgment in good ground and is bringing forth good fruit.

In 1872, after a night's carousal on the part of a number of men, they were suddenly awakened by a sense of their own shame, and they agreed with one another that that night's debauch should be their last, and they bound themselves by a most solemn oath, which was attested by an officer with his official signature, in which they pledged not only their sacred honor but their solemn oath that they would forever abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. This same document emerged from that place the next morning to be signed by the people in sympathy with the movement, and was signed by a large number of people, and we are happy to say that we believe that many have sacredly kept that oath, and it happily proved to be a good turn in the lives of some who may be counted among our best citizens. It is our pleasure to have the custody of that old document.

The Good Templars did a noble work for many years, and in 1876 the Temple of Honor was instituted, and created a sensation, and was the means of much good for a year or more. Internal dissensions caused its early demise and cut short a life that promised valuable service in the temperance work of the community. Very many were rescued and many saved from falling by the Temple of Honor. Other attempts were made later to revive the Temple and rebuild its broken walls, but a deep-seated prejudice so filled the minds of the

people that the new organization failed to accomplish its purpose. A Red Ribbon club was organized by the lamented John B. Finch, in 1879, and secured a very large membership, and was a power in Seward for a year or more. The Good Templars' lodge was again organized and flourished for a year, and was followed by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union. Of these the reader will learn more from a chapter devoted to their work, furnished by their order, as their organization is yet a working force. A Prohibition club was organized about 1883, and a Reform club was organized by C. J. Holt in 1885. The Reform club work is remembered by our people for grand work and grand results. They secured columns in the city papers and published many productions on different phases of temperance work, and together with the lectures and discussions at their weekly meetings were instrumental in doing much good.

Just as the year 1887 is closing an Anti-license club is organized that promises to be a power for good.

POSSIBILITIES OF SEWARD AS A MANUFACTURING CENTER.

The wiser political economists have concluded that the best interests of the whole people demand that the farm and the workshop should be as nearly side by side as possible. Where the crude material is grown or digged, there it should be wrought into proper shape for the use of man. Here in Seward county are countless millions of material that needs to be transformed into products of use and luxury. The cattle grazing upon a thousand hills call for dairy products, and packing-houses, tanneries, and soap factories. Our sheep call for carding machines, spinning-jennies, and cloth factories, and tailoring establishments. Our hogs are inviting packing-houses. Our flax demands oil mills, and twine mills, and rope factories. Our huge straw stacks speak loudly in behalf of paper mills. Our illimitable corn fields are a standing invitation to more and more feeders, corn starch factories, hominy mills, etc. Our inexhaustible soils, rich in all ingredients favorable for the production of vegetables and fruits, of the best, call for more canning establishments.

We have done remarkably well during the year 1887. Our progress in the direction of manufacturing has been very satisfactory,

but we have only commenced, and it seems to us to be no stretch of the imagination when we venture the prediction that ere the close of the century we may have a hundred manufacturing establishments within the city. At present we have six arms of railway reaching in as many directions, and a certain promise of more in the near future. We are happily situated in the midst of the finest fields for the production of raw material in the West, and with such grand facilities for reaching out to the world's markets, nothing should hinder the investment of capital in these enterprises.

SEWARD SCHOOLS.

The first school-house built on the town site was the frame house that is now the residence of Hugh Hunter, and it stood on same ground now occupied by the high school building. The schools, previous to the fall of 1870, were taught in the old log cabin, in the winter of 1866-67 by W. W. Cox, and in the following summer by S. C. Ross, and by Miss Ella Tuttle (now Mrs. Martin Liggett, of Broken Bow) in 1868. In the summer of 1869 the old cabin was moved away, and what was known as the old sway-back house, on the site of H. Vanderhoof's house, was rented, and Miss Mattie Boyes (now Mrs. Kellogg Olmstead, of Orleans, Neb.) taught. Then L. G. Johns taught in a little building where Butler's block now stands; also, Miss McKillip (now Mrs. L. G. Johns) taught in the same place.

H. M. Coleman taught the first term in the frame school-house, and was followed by J. D. Messenger. Prof. O. S. Ingham taught several terms of a private school in the old court-house, in 1872; also, Miss Ella Benson (now Mrs. C. L. Lewis, of Rapid City, D. T.) taught one or two terms in the same place, and this lady was afterwards employed in the various departments of the schools for twelve consecutive years.

The high school building was erected in 1874, and Prof. Ingham was principal for two years, with three assistants—Mrs. Paddock, Mrs. Merrill (now of California), and Miss Benson. The principals since that date have been: —. Phillips, H. H. Wilson, J. M. Scott, H. Cummings, W. J. Wise, and N. F. Daum.

The board of education have found it necessary to add more and more buildings, until at present there are four primary buildings, and

they have also added to the high school building so that it has near double its original capacity. The building is amply supplied with all modern apparatus and improvements. It requires twelve teachers to manage the various departments of the schools. Ten respectable classes have graduated from the high school. The present cost of maintaining the schools is about \$5,600 per annum. The attendance has increased through the years from 32 to about 500, and is still rapidly increasing.

Some of the more distinguished members of the school board through the years were—Claudius Jones, R. S. Norval, H. L. Boyes, G. Babson, Jr., Mrs. E. M. Spear, Mrs. S. C. Langworthy.

From the able corps of teachers that have helped to build our schools, and that have finished their work, we mention A. A. Der-shimer, who died at his post, and the noble and intelligent Miss Birge, of Milford, and Miss June Taylor.

SEWARD AS WE SEE IT JANUARY 1, 1888.

Beautiful city! She that has been celebrated in poetry and song as the "sleeping beauty of the Blue valley" has awakened to a new life. She has awakened from her restful sleep refreshed and strengthened, and to-day she sits a "very queen" upon this commanding hill, overlooking vast stretches of scenery most magnificent, with the meandering river gently gliding by her feet and stretching from away in the northward to the southward, marked by its long line of timber in graceful curves, loops, and bows, singing in its ripples a sweet song of her power to turn the wheels of mills and factories as she wends her way toward the sunny south; Plum creek, coming from the north-east, adding a charm as it winds among the beautiful farms and meadows, with its clusters of timber and varied landscapes; and from the north-west comes that grand stream, with name immortal, Lincoln creek, through "verdant fields," a "very paradise."

Here she sits rejoicing in the richness and splendor of the surroundings. These lands, rich in verdure, rich in all things necessary to make happy homes, orchards, meadows, and fruitful fields, rich in the "cattle upon a thousand hills," rich in hogs and horses, rich in its pure, sweet water and running streams, rich in railways and all the means of an extended commerce, rich in factories and workshops, rich in merchant princes, rich in churches with their spires pointing

to the *only* better land, rich in schools and all opportunities for mental culture and advancement, and "last, but not least," rich in strong arms and brave hearts, ready and willing to pursue in the pathway of progress and achievement.

In the blazing light of the electric torch we may count to-night near three thousand souls within the city, and quite a large number in its immediate environs, which will soon become a part of the city. Forty substantial brick business houses grace our streets, many of which would be a credit to the largest cities. Three great lines of railway reaching in six directions, and making accessible to us the whole business of the world—the silks and teas of the Orient, the fruits of the Occident, the gold, silver, and rich gems of the mountains, the products of the great plains, the factories of New England, and all the vast and varied interests of our great country. Three lines of telegraph bearing to us on lightning's wing words of hope and cheer from all lands. A telephone through which we may talk to one another and to a hundred cities beside. An electric light to brighten our pathway. Well may we exclaim in the language of the old prophet, "Our light is come and the glory of God is risen upon us."

Our Morris keyless lock factory, one of the most extensive manufacturing institutions in the West, and the most national in its character of any factory in Nebraska, in fact we may say the field of its operations is the world. Its trade will soon reach into all lands, even to the islands of the sea. It is a matter of pride that the inventor of the lock is a citizen of Seward. Our oat meal mill, with its capacity of a hundred barrels of meal per day and using a thousand bushels of oats per day, freighting in and out from six to eight hundred car loads of grain and products per year. Our canning establishment, with its enormous capacity for using vegetables and storing them up for winter food for tens of thousands, and giving a grand market for the produce of the farms and gardens, and giving out labor for hundreds of men, women, and children. A machine shop and foundry of large capacity, a creamery, four banks, with a multitude of mercantile establishments in all the various lines of trade, with one of the best hotels in the West, "The Windsor," and several smaller ones, and numerous boarding houses, six restaurants, and nearly a hundred workshops, large and small, including factories, etc., etc.

We mention blacksmiths, wagon makers, wire fence, tailoring, dress makers, millinery, cigars, broom makers, tinnerns, barbers, carpenters, newspapers, butchers, photographs, etc. With one of the best graded schools of our state, with a fine structure for the high school, seven departments, and four primary buildings, and employing twelve teachers. With eight church edifices, with large congregations of worshipers and flourishing Sabbath-schools. A magnificent Odd Fellows hall, a good opera house, three weekly newspapers, an excellent flouring mill, many splendid residences and beautiful yards, splendid streets, and handsome parks, all amply supplied with trees and shrubs lending their enchantment and refreshing shade.

During the year just closed the growth in population and improvement has been wonderful. Her waste places have been made glad by the accession of a splendid new railroad, of three great new factories, of a host of new buildings, several almost princely dwellings, one grand church, a great host of new people, and best of all a perfect restoration of confidence, and closing the old year with the electric torch—a grand triumph. We close this sketch of this beautiful city, our home, feeling the inspiration of our hope, always buoyant, now doubly sure that the possibilities of Seward are grand.

CHAPTER VIII.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHERS AND WIVES OF THE PIONEERS—CLOTHING OF THE PEOPLE—THE FOOD OF THE PIONEERS—THEIR VISITS AND CUSTOMS—OUR PEOPLE, GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS—FIRST MARRIAGES—FIRST TERM OF DISTRICT COURT—OLD SETTLERS' REUNIONS—EXTRACT OF AN ADDRESS BY W. W. COX AT OLD SETTLERS' REUNION IN 1886—"MY WILDERNESS HOME IN CHILDHOOD," BY MRS. NETTIE M. PINGREE.

The mothers and wives of the pioneers are justly entitled to kind remembrance. They were devoted and self-sacrificing beyond measure. The labor they performed and the hardships they endured should live in the hearts of the people to the remotest generation. Here is a picture not overdrawn: A young bride of twenty has left her father's home of comfort and luxury in the East, and with her young husband has turned her face toward the setting sun, with the determination to assist in hewing out a new home in the wilderness of the West. With no capital except a strong resolution to win and strong faith in the future, they bid adieu to friends and kindred, and with a steady eye fixed upon the star of empire they penetrate the wilderness. A little log cabin or a sod house or a dugout has been hastily built for shelter. A parlor, sitting room, kitchen, and bed room are all combined in one. The bare walls of this rude home are brought in contrast in the mind of the young wife with the beautiful home of her childhood, but in her young breast "hope is like an anchor to the soul." When the first Sabbath dawns she may listen in vain for the sweet chimes of the church going bell, but looking out on the broad expanse of prairie all is solitary. Sometimes with heaviness of heart she labors on and on, and cheers the faltering heart of her husband in his endeavors. The little means that they have brought are rapidly melting away before any return for their labor is in sight. The beautiful garments of her youth are fading and becoming tattered. By and by she becomes a mother, and while the beautiful gift of heaven may bring joy and gladness, yet in the

same train it brings anxieties and sorrows, a constant care by day and by night. The young father must sometimes go long distances from home, to be gone days at a time, to a mill fifty or a hundred miles away, or to a city far away, and the young mother and her darling must stay weary days and long nights in the lonely home, with no protector but her God. And now comes a strolling band of hungry Indians to frighten and annoy her, and while her child is screaming with fright she must stand in the door and face these ferocious wild men. She must frequently leave her child to cry, while she goes long distances after the cows, or to a distant spring for water, or carry the baby on her arm and a heavy bucket of water with the other. Then again harvest time comes or something else occurs when several work hands must be provided for, when, with scanty means at command she must perhaps carry the babe upon her arm and with the other do the work of cooking for the hands. And again when night comes she must divide her bed and make beds upon the cabin floor for the men, and as her husband keeps a "free hotel" for all strangers, she must deny herself and little ones ease and comfort to wait upon strangers, and frequently make her children wait at meal time while strangers eat their bread, and the mother and children make their meal from the scraps. This is no fancy sketch, it has occurred ten thousand times, of which there are plenty of living witnesses.

Oh! who but a mother can tell of the weariness of a mother's life on the frontier; so often struggling to keep the wolf from the door, so often beset with dangers, so often overworked with slavish labor, and so often overwrought with anxious care. No wonder that untimely gray hairs appear, and that her cheeks are furrowed while she should yet be in the prime of her womanly strength and beauty.

Young men and maidens of Nebraska, you that have such pleasant homes to-day, will you please remember what it has cost your mothers in the years gone by to prepare these homes for you. In your grateful hearts will *you* in a becoming manner reverence and love them? If you can fully realize what they have done for you in your imagination it will surround their gray heads with grace and beauty, intermingled with a halo of holy light.

THE CLOTHING OF THE PEOPLE

during the first years of the settlement should perhaps receive some notice. It must be borne in mind that clothing was extremely high in price from 1863 to 1868. The commonest calico was worth from forty to fifty cents per yard. A pair of brogan shoes cost five dollars; common domestic was worth from seventy-five cents to one dollar per yard, and all articles at about the same rate. Fine clothing was entirely out of reach of the common people, and were unseen in this country. The men were usually provided with a (condemned) soldier's overcoat, which were the cheapest garments in the market. Condemned soldiers' blankets were also used to considerable extent. We have seen them made into overshirts, and then used for undershirts. We have also known them to be made into pants. Our hats and caps were just what happened to come handy—sometimes caps of coon or badger skins; at other times some old garment would be ripped up and made into a cap; occasionally a chip hat was seen, but usually in a weather-beaten condition, and frequently it was minus a large part of the rim. A gray horse-blanket frequently served as a coat. Mittens were made rudely of skins of animals—elk, coon, or whatever came handy; sometimes they were made of old bits of cloth, and faced with pieces of old meal sacks, and meal sacks were frequently converted into pants. Strips of bed-ticking furnished us with suspenders. Our feet, perhaps, had the hardest time of it, as they were brought more directly into contact with frost and snow. The man that had a pair of good cowhide boots was fortunate, but he was an exception. We improvised moccasins, which at times we were fortunate enough to trade for with the Indians; then we would make them ourselves out of elk hides, or of cloth or sheep skins. Our poor feet were often in a sorry plight.

If our wives were fortunate enough to have two calico dresses in one year they were truly thankful. Sunbonnets of calico were commonly worn to church, as well as the faded shawls of other years. Cloth slippers frequently served for shoes, or moccasins. We have known the old chests to be rummaged and old bedspreads, such as the dear old grandmothers wove, brought out as a last resort and made into skirts and worn. In summer, men, women, young men, and maidens went barefoot to a great extent.

Such clothing as we wore, even the best of us, would now be a laughing stock for you all, but then it was no laughing matter; now it's no matter how much you laugh. Should you see one dressed in the usual garb of 1864 and 1865 you would certainly think it to be a scarecrow, yet we were powerless to have it otherwise. We all felt the sting of the situation. We had many of us been used to better fare. We had just as noble aspirations as any of our present people. We all wanted to do better, and just as soon as it was possible we did do better.

Our food was usually plain and healthful. We used as a matter of necessity a great amount of corn bread and lye hominy. We generally had a good supply of wild fruits, such as plums, grapes, gooseberries, alderberries, and raspberries. We made sorghum molasses for sweetening. Our new ground produced melons in grand profusion, and when we were fortunate enough to keep the Indians from stealing them, we enjoyed eating melons such as a king might admire. Our wives were almost universally good cooks, and they would come nearer getting up a good dinner out of poor material than most women do out of a well-supplied larder. At times our tables were supplied with delicious meats of antelope and wild turkeys, frequently of elk, and occasionally of buffalo. Then again we would have to depend upon smaller game, such as prairie chickens, rabbits, squirrels, etc. After the first year pigs began to accumulate, also domestic fowls, and occasionally a beef would be slaughtered, and also vegetables were produced, and the skies became brighter.

Later comers usually brought a little money, and we proved a blessing to them, as we usually had something to sell them that they most needed, such as grain, hay, poultry, a pig, a cow perhaps, some potatoes for seed, and we welcomed them heartily, for they brought us some money, which we sorely needed, and they brought us society, which we had longed for so patiently. They brought us hopes of schools and church privileges, for which we were hungry indeed. We began to renew our dilapidated clothing and live more like folks, and our lives were brighter and more cheerful for their coming.

Visiting on the frontier was a feature worth noticing. With all our poverty, we enjoyed visiting one another. We made no fashionable calls, just to show what fine clothes we could wear. We were all ragged alike. When we went we aimed to put in the whole day,

and took the whole family, and we invariably had a good time. One feature of these visits was that our good wives all knew one another's circumstances. If the neighbor to be visited was out of butter or meat, or any other article necessary to make a square meal, it was never an offense to look the cupboard over and take such things along as would supply a deficiency. That would now be considered an insult. Then it was the most common thing to take a roll of butter, a piece of meat, a few eggs, or anything that parties were fortunate enough to have, and that was known to be lacking at the place to be visited. People were always welcome at their neighbors' hearths.

OUR PEOPLE.

We are a mixed multitude. We have drawn our population from nearly all of the northern and eastern states—have representatives from Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas. We have drawn more heavily on Illinois and Iowa than other states. Of our foreign-born people, the Germans perhaps exceed all others, although we have quite a respectable number from England, Ireland, and Sweden, with a few from France. We have drawn from the best blood of all localities from which we emigrated. It certainly is the best class of people of any state or country that have a longing for a home of their own and that have the courage to break away from old home and old associates and face the dangers of the wilderness and all the privations of the frontier for the sake of a home, and of such are the masses of our people. Our Germans were principally thoroughly schooled in American ways of life in Illinois and Iowa, where they had a long residence prior to their coming here, and it is rarely that we find one who cannot talk our language fluently and has not an intelligent idea of our institutions. They are most universally an energetic and thrifty people, stepping to the front as farmers and business-men. They have done much toward developing and enriching the county. They sustain in their various denominations ten churches, each with a creditable house of worship. There are quite a number of English people, who are among our most thrifty and valuable citizens. The same may be said of many Irish families, also Swedish, Danish, and French. All are represented by the intelligent and valuable of their respective countries. They are all here with a full purpose of becoming Americans and identified with the institutions of their adopted

home. They are all making rapid progress in adopting American ways and methods, and we are fast becoming a homogeneous people. There are a very few families of colored people, probably not to exceed six, and they are very worthy and industrious people. So far as we are advised all of them had been slaves when young, and it certainly is to their credit that they are doing so well.

The Americans of course largely preponderate in numbers, and they are universally intelligent and progressive, and the great mass of them are prosperous. There are hundreds who came to the county with little more than their bare hands and with large families, who now have beautiful homes and a great abundance of this world's goods. Their children have grown up intelligently, and the old folks are enjoying the fruits of a well-spent life.

We have in all parts of the county great numbers of the old soldiers, and it is a matter of pride that they are so universally respected and honored for the honorable part they had in saving for us a home and a country, and for their sterling qualities as citizens.

FIRST MARRIAGES.

The first marriage in the county, as shown by the records, was that of John W. Pitt and Miss Elva S. Long, at the residence of Samuel Long, on the 12th day of November, 1866. The ceremony was performed by C. J. Neihardt, J. P.

The first marriage in G precinct and city of Seward was at the house of Lewis Moffitt, on the 20th day of March, 1867. The contracting parties were David P. Imlay and Miss Mary Moffitt, W. W. Cox, justice of the peace, officiating. On the 20th of April, 1867, the second wedding in "G" precinct was that of James A. Brown and Miss Sarah A. Imlay, at the residence of the bride's father, one and one-half miles north-east of the present city. We had the honor of officiating on that occasion.

PROBATE COURT RECORD.

We glean from the probate court records that the first letters of guardianship were issued by Judge Henry Wortendyke, on the 29th of January, 1870, to Sarah C. Wilcox, in matters of guardianship of the minor heirs of Syrel Tift.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT.

The first term of the district court was held in Seward county, at Milford, November 15, 1869, Judge Geo. B. Lake presiding. Frank M. Elsworth was appointed district attorney. First case on the docket was John W. Shields vs. J. L. Bandy. The only state case was against W. H. Tuttle, for an assault on Jonathan Gordon. Mr. Tuttle got clear of the charge, but the prevalent impression was that he ought to be fined for not doing a more thorough job.

J. C. Cowin, of Omaha, was the first district attorney of the district who attended our court, which was held in the year 1870, at Milford.

The first term held at Seward was in the spring of 1872, Judge Lake on the bench. T. L. Norval was appointed district attorney. At that term the famous Courtwright injunction case came up, in which Judge Lake made the injunction against the Midland R. R. and the county commissioners perpetual.

Judge Lake held the office of judge of this judicial district until the year 1876, when the districts were changed and the sixth district was formed. Geo. W. Post was elected, and he was re-elected and served until the spring of 1883, when he resigned, and T. L. Norval was appointed by Gov. Dawes to fill the vacancy. Judge Norval was elected in the fall of 1883 and has held the office since that date, and was re-elected in the fall of 1887. M. B. Reese was elected district attorney, and held the office until 1882. Thos. Darnall was elected to the place in the fall of 1882, who held the place until January, 1887, when the law took effect making county attorneys, at which time R. P. Anderson was elected to the office of county attorney.

Prior to 1879, the county clerk performed the duties of district clerk. H. P. Lewis was appointed in 1879, and elected in 1880 and re-elected in 1882, after which Geo. A. Merriam was elected, and was re-elected in November, 1887.

OLD SETTLERS' REUNIONS.

The first meeting of the reunion of old settlers was held in the public square at Seward in October, 1884, with W. W. Cox as president. The meeting was not largely attended, but was of great interest. Many touching incidents of early times were related. In 1885

there was no meeting, but in October, 1886, the society was reorganized and placed on a more permanent basis. Officers elected were: W. W. Cox, president, Geo. A. Merriam, secretary, and Mrs. Thos. Graham, treasurer. The society that year opened a registry of the old settlers, giving name, time of settlement, where located, age, etc. Great numbers availed themselves of that privilege. A very large and enthusiastic meeting was held in Roberts' grove, west of the city. The officers for 1887 were: J. H. Culver, of Milford, president; George A. Merriam, secretary, and Mrs. Thos. Graham, treasurer. In October, 1887, the annual meeting was held at Milford, was very largely attended, and a very enjoyable meeting was held. Gov. Thayer made the address of the day. Many new names were added to the registry. Officers elected for 1888 were: W. R. Davis, president, and Geo. A. Merriam and Mrs. Graham were again re-elected, and Seward was chosen as the place of the meeting of 1888. These meetings bid fair to grow in interest from year to year, and in the long years to come the registry will become of priceless value.

The four counties of Butler, Polk, York, and Seward have held conjointly three reunions, at Lord's grove, near the four corners, where vast numbers of the people of all these counties have held very profitable meetings.

At the meeting in 1886 it was estimated that over four thousand were present. The meeting of 1887 was postponed on account of a heavy rain storm, and the adjourned meeting met with same obstacle, when it was determined to defer the meeting to the summer of 1888.

EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY W. W. COX AT AN
OLD SETTLERS' REUNION AT LORD'S GROVE, NEAR THE
FOUR CORNERS OF BUTLER, POLK, YORK, AND
SEWARD COUNTIES, 1886.

Young friends, children of the pioneers, we would ask you to bear in kind remembrance the hardships and struggles that these grey-headed fathers and mothers have endured in other years to provide homes of comfort and luxury for you. Their heads are fast becoming silvered with age. Their steps are not so elastic as in other years. The great duties with which they so manfully grappled in the prime of their manhood's strength must now be accepted by you. Will you accept them like men and women, worthy the honored names you bear?

The improvements on these prairies, these houses and barns, these groves and orchards, these smiling fields, these churches and school-houses, these thrifty towns and cities, that, like jewels of a crown, are scattered over the plain, all attest that the pioneers have not lived in vain. They have laid well and firmly these foundations. You must go on with the superstructure.

There is yet plenty of work for you. These beneficent institutions are to be guarded, and great undertakings are yet to develop into achievements that will bless mankind. This vast empire must in the near future teem with its millions of people, and it will require great wisdom to guide them to a proper destiny, and upon you, our sons and daughters, must devolve the duty of going forward wisely and energetically to complete the task we have so well begun. Oh, for the glory of the future of our native land!

May you, fathers and mothers, spend your declining years amidst peace and plenty, surrounded by earnest, loving, and intelligent children, carrying forward with master hands the enterprises that are so dear to your hearts, and may he who shall stand here in the far-off years to come, to tell the stories of our first settlement, of our joys and sorrows, of our labors, trials, and discouragements, and the final triumphs, "be able to still look around upon a great, intelligent, free, and happy people." May he with all the enthusiasm of poesy exclaim:

"Here is still my country,
Zealous yet modest,
Innocent though free,
Patient of toil,
Serene amidst alarms,
Inflexible in faith,
Invincible in arms."

THE WILDERNESS HOME OF MY CHILDHOOD.

FROM THE PEN OF NETTIE M. PINGREE.

"The hills are dearest which our childish feet
Have climbed the earliest; and the streams most sweet
Are ever those at which our young lips drank,
Stooped to their waters o'er the grassy bank."

—Whittier.

Though years have passed since our last visit to the old homestead, visions come to us of the woods and valleys by the sparkling waters of the beautiful Blue.

The river winds its crooked way through the valley with many a curve, forming broad acres of woodland which were a perfect paradise to us during the whole year. There, in the spring-time, the green grass and violets formed a beautiful carpet for our feet, while around us the alder and wild plum blossoms made fragrant the air with their sweet scented odor.

Down the garden path bordered with moss roses and morning glories, we would speed away to the river, bait our hooks for fish, and cross the foot log and follow the path through the woods to the school-house. That little rough-board shanty, sodded all around, and the home-made, knife-marked desks have given place to new and better ones. The children upon the playground are strange to us, but the same games of "blind man's buff" and "drop the handkerchief" are played by them as we played long years since.

The grape-vine swing must not be forgotten, for there, with choicest flowers, was crowned the queen of May, and also, in childish sport, were wedded two schoolmates, just twenty years ago.

Under the welcome shade of the old walnut tree by the ford we studied our Sunday-school lessons, and were often lulled to sleep by the merry song of the wild birds.

During the long summer days, wading around the sand-bars and gathering shells afforded us a most delightful pastime, and as the sun was seeking the western horizon we would mount old Ned, the family horse, ford the river, and go to the farther pasture after the cows.

Each land hath its shadows, and each home hath its ghosts, and ours was not an exception. The "Big grove" was the most beautiful of all the "bends," on account of the heavy timber and dense foliage. There the sugar maple trees abounded, and there grew the most berries, the latter being very important, for many a new dress and coat were bought with the profits realized from their sale.

One evening at dusk something large and white, resembling a great bear, was seen to come out of those woods, and although we afterward learned that it was only a neighbor boy with a bed-tick over his head, we never ventured again into that grove without company.

When the autumn suns changed the foliage and ripened the fruits, then was our harvest. It would be difficult to decide who worked the harder to store away the winter's supply of walnuts and acorns, we children or the squirrels. Perhaps we tired of the labor more

quickly than our little forest friends, for frequently the restful shade of the great oaks would be too tempting, and we seated ourselves by their roots and weaved wreathes of the brilliant-hued leaves, while the autumn winds sighed and rustled the branches overhead, making a beautiful accompaniment to our fancies. But when winter came with its hoary frosts and covered the earth with its blanket of snow, and the cold winds whistled through the barren timber, then, like all the children of the woods, the most comfortable place for us was home. That little log cabin, with its great fireplace and clay-chinked walls, is the most cherished of all places. The dove-cote upon its roof, the cave behind it, the box-alder and cottonwood trees, and the old-fashioned well will always be remembered.

It seems but yesterday that father brought in the huge back-log and built a brilliant fire in front of it, then popped the corn for our first Christmas eve in our new home. He took us children on his knee and told us of Santa Claus, and how he would come down that huge chimney and fill our stockings, if we would hurry off to bed. Mother tucked the covers carefully about us and resumed her knitting, while father read aloud, by the light of the blazing brushwood, the latest news of the rebellion, which was then raging with all its horrors.

We watched the shadows cast by the flickering light of the burning embers upon the hearth till we fell asleep, dreaming, as all children do, of Chris Kringle and his sleighful of toys. In the morning, when the sun's first rays peeped through the curtains of the one window in the cabin, with a bright Christmas greeting, we hastened to our stockings, to find them overflowing with popcorn and doughnuts. Away down in the toe we found a stick of candy and a pair of lovely red mittens with little snowflakes all over them. We were a happy little band, and though many Christmases have come and gone, and Santa Claus has filled our stockings with a far more lavish hand, yet none will have the same place in our memory as the one of '64.

But now, far removed from those loved scenes of childhood, and looking out upon a broad expanse of prairie and corn land, our minds will naturally wander back to the old homestead, and decide that, though home is home where'er it may be, yet that halo cannot be taken away from our father's hearthstone.

CHAPTER IX.

FRUITS OF SEWARD COUNTY—SNOW STORMS—STOCK FEEDERS—STOCK BREEDERS—IMPORTERS OF FINE HORSES—FIRE DEPARTMENT OF SEWARD—MONEY PAID TEACHERS BY VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN 1887—MILFORD NEWSPAPERS—TROOP A, NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARDS—NOTES FROM DIARIES OF E. L. ELLIS AND HON THOS. GRAHAM, KEPT IN 1858 TO 1863.

THE FRUITS OF SEWARD COUNTY.

FROM THE PEN OF J. B. COURTWRIGHT.

The county is yet in its infancy so far as fruits are concerned, but it can be readily seen that it compares favorably with other counties of the state. We have a good climate, our winters are not so cold as many of the older states of our latitude, and the fruits already raised are of better flavor and more free from specks than in Illinois, Iowa, or many of the more eastern states. It is true that many of our present varieties are not as hardy here as in the eastern states. However, they had many failures there until they learned what trees were adapted to their soil and climate, and we must learn by their experience, and not plant such as have been proven to be worthless. Hardy trees of apple or plum will do well here if the proper varieties are selected and properly cared for. I have seen as fine apples raised here as I ever saw anywhere. We cannot grow an orchard in one or two years; it takes time and watchful care, but when grown, there is nothing that an enterprising man feels more pride in than showing his orchard to his friends. Then, what is more delicious than a finely flavored apple, or a nice bunch of grapes, or a fine peach?

We think that he who plants and prunes an orchard is a true benefactor, and no citizen of Seward county can do a more praiseworthy act than by planting an orchard and doing his part in making Seward the best fruit county of our noble state. If we only do our duty we will soon have plenty of both large and small fruits. The following varieties we have found to be hardy and prolific: For

summer apples—Red Astrachan, Duchess of Oldenburg, Early Pennock, Early Harvest. I would recommend as fall apples—Snow, Maiden's Blush, Bailey Sweet, Hass, Roman Stem, Cole's Quince, Fallsware. And for winter—Ben Davis, White Pippin, Winesap, Rawle's Genett, Jonathan, and Mann apple. There are many others that will do well.

There are a few varieties of tame plum that do very well, but I have succeeded best with wild varieties. I hardly ever fail of getting a good crop the third year from planting the pits, and they have always proved to be of an excellent quality. I have had but partial success with tame plums.

Have succeeded well with strawberries, goose and raspberries, and grapes. In fact I have never seen a failure here. I think the grape merits a more extensive cultivation in our county. The grape rot is unknown with us. The Concord and Clinton are the leading varieties. Have seen Catawbas do well, but they are not as hardy as some others. I prune in February.

Peaches are very uncertain, but have had some to measure seven inches in circumference. I get a crop every few years, which pays me well for all my trouble. I think the trees and buds kill in the fall, as they grow too late and they have too much sap in the tree. I had peaches this year, and they grew on the topmost limbs, with none on the lower branches. The fruit was from ten to fifteen feet from the ground, and of course in the most exposed condition. Some of the fruit was very nice.

I am hopeful of the future. I found my hope in the belief in the old adage, "What has been done can be done again." Orchards planted by the early settlers have done well, and are producing good results in both quality and quantity. Care should be taken in procuring healthy trees, and then good judgment in setting and pruning, and also planting at proper distances, say from 25 to 30 feet apart, and last, but not least, secure of the hardy varieties, and only experiment with other and more costly kinds than those mentioned.

We predict that in a few years our people will be feasting on apples of the best quality, the products of our own soil. Considering everything, the outlook is most encouraging, and the observer can see a marked improvement in the interest manifest in starting and caring for orchards. The exhibit at our fair in September last,

and the two previous years, would put the blush to the cheeks of our sister counties in the eastern part of the state.

Notwithstanding the frequent warnings, unprincipled and irresponsible agents—"tree peddlers"—are from year to year beating people out of thousands of dollars, that are virtually thrown away, by getting worthless stock. But for all this we are making progress and no one familiar with the business can doubt that our county can become a very successful fruit county. Very many orchards have been so loaded that it was necessary to prop the branches.

SNOW STORMS.

Since the stormy winter of 1866 and 1867, we have had only occasional storms of great severity. In April, 1873, a rain commenced in the early morning, which turned to sleet during the day, and raged so fiercely that man nor beast could hardly withstand it. As night approached it turned to snow, and the night and following day were appalling. The whirling and drifting snow drove the unsheltered stock before it to destruction. Mr. A. D. Richie had a large herd of sheep drift with the storm until they rushed over the bank into Lincoln creek, where they perished. Peter Henegen, of Butler county, lost a herd of cattle in the same way. They took shelter under a high bank on the upper Blue, and the snow drifted entirely over them.

The worst snow storm of this generation struck this county a little after 3 P.M. on the 12th day of January, 1888. A damp snow had been falling since near midnight previous. The weather was quite warm and pleasant, and up to 3 o'clock the snow fell in great feathery flakes, such as school children rejoice to see, with no breath of wind; and while we were all watching the beautiful snow coming so gently, little did we think of the terrors of the night, when all at once, as if some demon had been turned loose upon the world, there came a blast from the north-west, such as was never seen before in this fair land. All hearts were terror-stricken at the fury of the storm. The atmosphere was so thick with drifting snow that nothing could be seen, and the mercury immediately fell near fifty degrees, and it seemed for a time that no mortal exposed to its terrors could survive its fearful ravages. This continued till near midnight.

So far there has been no loss of life recorded in Seward county,

but there were numerous hair-breadth escapes. We have two victims in this county, who suffered more than death: Lena Webbeke, of "I" precinct, a girl of eleven years, undertook to make her home from the school-house, and became bewildered and remained out in an open field, partially drifted under the snow, and was rescued in the morning. This is one of the most remarkable incidents of record. That she should survive seems a miracle. At this writing one of her legs has been amputated, and she bids fair to recover. Miss Ettie Shattuck, who was away in Holt county, teaching, was caught in the storm, and by chance ran on to a hay stack and burrowed into it, remaining there seventy-two hours, and was accidentally found. She was brought to her home in Seward, and it was found necessary to have both feet amputated. She is now slowly recovering. She remains cheerful under the terrible ordeal. Her case has created a wide-spread sympathy, and large amounts of money have been raised at Seward, Omaha, Fremont, Nebraska City, and among the traveling men on trains, and at many other places in the state. Poor Ettie died February 6, 1888.

The *State Journal* started a subscription also for the Webbeke girl, which was caught up at Seward and other places, and will result in ample funds for her proper care and education. All that willing hands and loving hearts can do will be done for her relief and tender care.

The storm was of such short duration that the stock stood it through with scarcely no loss in this county, but in the great north-land it swept men and beasts to destruction by thousands. The people of our county are very grateful for the generous contributions from all parts of the state.

STOCK FEEDERS.

Stock feeding has grown to be an important industry in this county. There are being fed at present from thirty-five hundred to four thousand cattle, and a corresponding amount of hogs. The principal feeders are Phillip Unitt, Simeon True and Brown, General True, Marsh B. Palmer, David Palmer, H. Nabb, E. M. Hickman, C. J. Wright, C. M. Gorden, Frank W. Upton, Jacob Mundhenke, Joseph D. Speltz, John Williams, Lewis Anderson, E. M. Olney, John D. Olney, Warren W. Brown, and J. N. Edwards.

FINE STOCK BREEDERS.

This business is assuming importance, and there are many fine herds in the county. We mention among the leading fine stock breeders, Claudius Jones and Son, Friesian-Holstein and Short-horns; J. N. Edwards, Short-horns; G. W. Bartow, Herefords; E. M. Hickman, Short-horns.

The fine horse breeders are led by A. Rogy, an importer and breeder who has done much to improve the horses of this and adjoining counties. Other breeders are Geo. Abbott, Frank W. Upton, and others. The Norman and Clydesdale are the leading breeds.

THE FIREMEN OF SEWARD

deserve honorable mention in these pages for valuable services rendered. The organization dates back to 1879, when the engines and hooks and ladders were purchased by the city. The organization is divided into three companies—Engine companies No. 1 and No. 2, and the Hook and Ladder company. When duty calls the boys are always ready, and have been instrumental in saving much valuable property. They maintain a reading room, and have about 500 volumes in the library, besides valuable periodicals, papers, etc.

We would gladly give a full history of the Association, but the records were unattainable.

SCHOOLS.

Below is the amount of money paid teachers in Seward county for the year ending July 11, 1887:

DIST.	AMOUNT.	DIST.	AMOUNT.
1.....	\$160 50	12.....	210 00
2.....	220 00	13.....	220 00
3.....	120 00	14.....	360 00
4.....	388 00	15.....	315 00
5 (Milford)	1985 00	16.....	210 00
6.....	304 00	17.....	210 00
7.....	305 00	18.....	265 00
8.....	180 00	19.....	215 00
9 (Seward).....	5561 00	20.....	320 00
10.....	195 00	21.....	180 00
11.....	280 00	22.....	210 00

DIST.	AMOUNT.	DIST.	AMOUNT.
23.....	425 00	58.....	294 00
24.....	305 00	59.....	304 00
25.....	307 00	60 (Utica, all female teachers)	1395 00
26.....	275 00	61.....	265 00
27.....	277 50	62.....	180 00
28.....	340 00	63.....	200 00
29.....	265 00	64.....	190 00
30.....	195 00	65.....	142 00
31.....	247 50	66.....	210 00
32.....	240 00	67.....	210 00
33.....	218 00	68.....	130 00
34.....	233 00	69.....	210 00
35.....	180 00	70.....	180 00
36.....	250 00	71.....	260 00
37.....	240 00	72.....	245 00
38.....	195 00	73.....	197 00
39.....	300 00	74.....	175 00
40.....	333 00	75.....	84 00
41.....	335 00	76.....	160 00
42.....	350 00	77.....	200 00
43.....	259 00	78.....	198 50
44.....	330 00	79.....	260 00
45.....	105 00	80.....	210 00
46.....	315 00	81.....	305 00
47.....	290 00	82 (Germantown).....	345 00
48.....	221 00	83 (Staplehurst).....	735 00
49.....	254 00	84.....	257 50
50.....	210 00	85.....	210 00
51 (Malcolm P. O.)	531 00	86.....	245 00
52.....	280 00	87.....	265 00
53.....	260 00	88.....	156 00
54.....	270 00	89.....	150 00
55.....	227 50	90 (Tamora).....	417 50
56.....	235 00		
57.....	225 00		

The teachers employed are fully three-fourths ladies, and outside the city of Seward the wages are fully equal to that paid gentlemen.

One of the graded schools (Utica) is presided over by a lady. In the city of Seward eleven of the twelve teachers are ladies.

MILFORD NEWSPAPERS.

From the time that the *Record* ceased to exist, in April, 1873, which able and valuable paper has already been very fully noticed, Milford had no paper until February, 1882, when the *Seward County Democrat*, a seven-column folio, was issued by Alexander Brothers. It was true to its name, a straight-out democratic paper, and had a successful business for two years, when its proprietors sold it out to Prof. Geo. F. Burkett, of Michigan. The professor changed its name to that of *Milford Ozone*, and its political career thenceforward was republican. A few months later, the editor having been elected principal of the Milford high school took in as partner an erratic individual by the name of Horace Boyle, who played a brief engagement of three months, when his interest was purchased by H. C. Hensel, of Omaha, the present editor and proprietor. An amicable partnership of two months ensued, when Prof. Burkett's interest was purchased, and then the name was changed to that of *Milford Nebraskan*. Its politics remained republican.

Ed. Hansel has had twelve years' experience in newspaper work, and has become quite efficient as a public writer and editor. He continues the successful publication of the *Nebraskan*, an eight-page, seven-column paper, and long may it live to disseminate light and truth among the people of the county. The *Nebraskan* is to be enlarged January 1, 1888.

TROOP A, NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARDS.

In pursuance to special order No. 3, issued by Gov. John M. Thayer to J. H. Culver, of Milford, Troop A of the Nebraska National Guards was organized and mustered into service by Adj. Gen. A. V. Cole, on July 22, 1887.

The company then elected J. H. Culver, captain; Wolsey Weyant, Jr., 1st Lieut.; and C. L. Smith, 2d Lieut.; who were duly commissioned. The following non-commissioned officers and privates complete the *personnel* of the company:

S. B. Launc, 1st sergeant; Jas. A. Haselwood, Q. M. sergeant; John R. Handy, 2d sergeant; W. A. Morgan, 3d sergeant; J. J.

Dunnegan, 4th sergeant; J. Luebben, 5th sergeant; Craven Stream, 6th sergeant; W. S. Kinney, 1st Corp.; Scott Garland, 2d Corp.; Geo. C. Fosler, 3d Corp.; John W. Wykoff, 4th Corp.

Privates—Chas. H. Anderson, Richard Armstrong, Edmund J. Ashton, Wm. G. Ashton, John Armstrong, Lauren Brown, A. F. Brooking, H. Blackburn, A. T. Baldwin, Robt. G. Cox, Ralph E. Deniston, Chas. E. Hans, George Leger, Louis Leger, Roscoe Langley, W. G. Morgan, J. C. Morford, A. E. Patrick, Geo. H. Paisley, Geo. A. Suddith, Robt. W. Stall, Geo. Stueck, M. R. Sharp, W. J. Vosburg, Henry Weyant, Chas. Weyant, John Wright, Simon D. Yordy.

This troop was assigned to the First Brigade, and ordered in camp at Lincoln on August 29, 1887.

The company took up the line of march August 30th, in the midst of a drizzling rain storm, camping the first night at the Quick farm, near Emerald, and reaching "Camp Thayer" the next morning at 9 A.M. The week was spent in drill and camp discipline. The troop performed excellent service on vidette duty in keeping the disorderly in camp, receiving the highest compliments for their appearance and soldierly bearing on grand review by Gen. Wheaton, of the regular army, who was detailed by the war department to inspect the Nebraska National Guards. Breaking camp on Saturday, September 3d, the troop marched to its rendezvous at Milford, a distance of twenty miles, in six hours, which would be considered rapid enough for a forced march in military parlance.

Seward county has the honor of having the only troop of cavalry in Nebraska, and the members of the company are noted for their steady habits and moral force, therefore possessing the necessary requisites for effective military service.

Capt. Culver participated three years in active service during the war for the Union, and having taken an academic military course after retiring from the war, and being a strict disciplinarian, will bring the troop up to the required standard of efficiency.

The troop is well equipped with excellent regulation uniforms and cavalry sabers and bridles, and are quartered when on duty at the new brick armory on Main St., Milford, where a military air prevails when the "Yellow Jackets" are assembled.

FROM E. L. ELLIS' DIARY, KEPT IN 1859 TO 1861.

Mr. E. landed in Nebraska on May 12, 1859, and on May 17th we find him and party on the Nemaha creek, near where Palmyra stands, which is described as a wild country with howling wolves. He finds in all that county just one deserted cabin. He says the roads leading to Nebraska City are lined with an innumerable host of returning Pike's Peakers. Was favorably impressed with the quality of lands. Party arrived at the house of A. J. Wallingford, on Salt creek, on the 17th. The party, consisting of E. L. Ellis, A. J. Wallingford, F. C. Simpson, Wm. Jones, and C. L. Barrett, visited Blue river on June 10th. Their way led across the rough land along Haines branch and South Middle creek, and except a drove of deer they saw nothing to please them until they reached the Blue valley. We infer by the time they were traveling that they struck Blue river somewhere between Old Camden and Milford. At six o'clock they reached an improvement that was commenced on the farm of A. J. Rogers, and was occupied by a Mr. Norton. The party camped at the mouth of a branch putting into the river, which we infer was Plum creek. On the eleventh they traversed the tablelands east of Plum creek, and were well pleased with the country. He mentions the old town site at the junction of creek with river. Party saw one wolf and ten elk. Mr. E. says he killed one of them. They camped on ground where Mr. E. claims to have camped a year before.

Mr. Ellis was left alone at camp a day without ammunition, and says it was blue enough, twenty-five or thirty miles from settlement. Three elk came within two hundred yards of camp. June 13th, worked on his claim, which is by the present iron bridge. Returned to Salt creek on the 14th, and learned that five hundred Cheyennes and Arapahoes had passed on their way to butcher the Pawnee tribe. The settlers at Salt creek are fearful that these Indians will rob and kill them as they return, and are preparing fortifications, and had also sent spies to watch the movements of the red-skins. This scare continued until the 19th. August 4th, Mr. Ellis rode a stray mule to Rock Bluff, sixty miles, for a doctor, and carried cold johnny cake in his pocket to eat.

September 4th it is noted that nearly everybody in the settlement is sick. Mr. E. visited Blue river again in November, and he camped

on Plum creek on the 3d; was hunting that day. Next we find him building a little house on his claim. The company saw, on the 6th, near three hundred elk, and killed one that netted 500 pounds.

On the 11th two men were attacked by five hundred Indians, and taken prisoners, held one day, robbed of all they had except their guns, which were given back to them, and they were charged by the brave Pawnees to never come to Blue river again.

Salt creek, Christmas day, and no snow, warm and pleasant, roads dusty.

On the 22d of February a few Indians came and bought twelve bushels of corn, which six squaws carried three miles without resting.

April 3d a terrible dust storm is noted. The atmosphere was fairly darkened by it. Fearful prairie fires on the 12th, damaging the settlers greatly, and came very near burning a house where a dead man lay at the time.

June 10th Mr. Ellis visited Blue river again, and had quite an experience ferrying Salt creek at the basin, as it was very high. Ferried over in the wagon box and pulled the gears over with ropes.

On the 15th killed an elk and an elk calf.

On the 16th found four head of stray cattle somewhere near the future site of Seward. The party also found an old wagon worth about \$45, that had been abandoned. They found a settlement on the Blue, where parties had planted forty acres of corn, but the record gives no names.

On the 23d, went over to Judge J. D. Maine's, on Stevens creek, and had the stray property appraised.

July 25th, killed a buck deer and tried to carry it to wagons nine miles distant, but failed.

On the 28th our party got lost on the prairie, and laid out all night.

September 3d, was again on his claim.

September 10, 1860, entered the claim. Soon after this Mr. E. returned to Missouri, where he found a wife and had some romantic experience with the intended father-in-law, who opposed the match.

FROM THE DIARY KEPT BY HON. THOMAS GRAHAM,

In July, 1858, while he was examining government surveys in Seward county and the counties surrounding it, we quote as follows:

Thursday, July 1, 1858—This day promises to be rainy and disagreeable. We ran over to range line in town five, between ranges two and three, and one mile up north to town corner, which we did not quite reach on account of its getting too dark to see.

July 4th—We are spending our 4th to-day in Sec. 1, town 5, R. 3 east. We have mulberry pie for dinner, which tastes nice. Day sunny and warm.

July 13th—Camped in Sec. 34 or 35; town ten, range 3 east. [This was probably about a mile from Milford.]

July 14th—Spent the day examining town nine, range three. [This is O precinct.]

July 15th—Examined town 13, range 3 [J precinct,] and discovered a small settlement on the east bank of the Blue, where we got some milk for supper.

[Mr. G., we regret to say, fails to give us the names of the settlers, but we suppose it was the McKinly and Morton families spoken of in chapter five of this work. It is barely possible that it was the Morgans.]

July 16th—Raining. Went up to T. 11, R. 3 [G precinct], and up as far north as T. 12. [The balance of this day's record is so badly effaced that we can not read it, but we decipher the word creek, which we understand to be our Plum creek.]

Sunday 18th—Spent the day fishing in the Blue. [Sorry friend G. would fish on Sunday.]

Mr. Graham tells us that he remembers that there were some town site stakes near the mouth of Plum creek, but knows nothing of how they came there. These same stakes and two foundations were yet visible in February, 1864. They covered the slope in what is now Moffitt's pasture, north of the B. & M. road, and extended west to near the river at Boyes' mill.

Later in the season we find Mr. Graham and party again in Seward county, and at that time they heard of the French settlement being formed at the forks of the Blue, but did not visit it. This was Vifquain settlement, just below the Saline county line. If Mr. G. had supposed that Seward county had so many honors in store for him, his notes would have been more elaborate, but we are thankful for small favors.

BEAVER CROSSING BUGLE

was established April 27, 1877, by H. C. Hensel, and is one of the largest county papers in the state, being an eight-page seven-column paper, ably edited, and republican in politics. We understand that it will be enlarged January 1, 1888. It makes the fur fairly stand on end among the Beavers to hear the "*Bugle* notes" calling them into active life from week to week. Long may the *Bugle* blasts awaken the hills and valleys of that region, and be a great helper in the development of the long neglected, yet interesting and valuable portion of our county.

CHAPTER X.

CHURCHES—ADVENTISTS, SEVENTH DAY—AMISH MENNONITES—BAPTIST MISSIONARY—CONGREGATIONALISTS—GERMAN EVANGELICAL FRIENDS—GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN—METHODIST PROTESTANT—UNITED BRETHREN—PRESBYTERIAN—METHODIST EPISCOPAL—PREDESTINARIAN BAPTIST.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS CHURCH

organized a class May 23, 1875, near Ruby station, which was named Seward church. Local elder, Mathew Hackworth; first deacon, Alexander Hackworth; first secretary, Ella L. Hackworth. Organizing members in addition to the above officers were: Francis Morton, Drucilla Morton, Martha Rider, Alice Rider, Rebecca Hackworth, Abiatha Kennison, and Anginette Morgan. Present membership about twenty. Prominent members that have died are: Abiatha Kennison, who died Jan. 26, 1877; E. D. Hoagland, in 1884. The denomination design to build a house of worship as soon as they feel able to do so. They have an active missionary and tract society of fifteen members; also a Sabbath-school of full fifty scholars, which is in a prosperous condition.

AMISH MENNONITES.

A small colony of these people settled two miles west of Milford, April 3, 1873. Eight families constituted the first settlement. Their first communion was held October, 1875, by Rev. Christian Kopf, of McLean county, Illinois, who was sent by the conference held in Illinois that year. Membership at that time was eleven. In the spring of 1876, Rev. Paul P. Hershberger came from Henry county, Iowa, and that spring a church was organized with twenty-three members, and Rev. Hershberger became pastor for the season. Late that fall communion was held by Rev. Noehzecker and Rev. Zcher, from Woodford county, Illinois. Three converts were baptized on this occasion. In the spring of 1877, Rev. D. C. Miller, of Howard,

county, Indiana, visited the church and held communion, when two new members were received into the communion.

Rev. Hershberger conducted services until the spring of 1878, when Rev. Joseph Gersho came, who assisted Rev. Hershberger, and that season the church was built. It is situated on Sec. 9 in "O" precinct.

At that time the membership was fifty-five. Rev. Samuel Zoehner conducted the first service in the new church. In the fall, Bishop Joseph Schlezler bought a home with us. He held communion and baptized five persons. He took up his residence here in the spring of 1879, and has been pastor to the present time. We have enlarged the church and it is now 28x56 feet. The present membership is two hundred and forty.

The society is very prosperous, having at this time the largest membership of any single church in the county.

THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEWARD

was organized March 1, 1870, with seven members, viz., Rev. E. L. Clark and wife, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pitt, Mr. and Mrs. Dr. L. Walker, and B. B. Archer. One hundred and seventy-six members have been received into the church during its existence up to January 1, 1888. Present membership, 43. Pastors in charge have been: Rev. E. L. Clark, followed by Rev. H. W. Brayton; then Rev. J. D. Newell, who was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Hall; then Rev. H. L. Badger. For a time the church was without a pastor, when Rev. E. Hapgood was called to the pastorate, and served for about two years. The church was again left for a time without a pastor, when Rev. John Barr was called, who served two years, and was succeeded by Rev. J. N. Webb. The church edifice was erected in the north part of town in 1872, and removed to its present location in 1876. Notable members that have died were, Rev. E. L. Clark and wife; Vinal Danniels, killed while at work on the church belfry, by a fall; Mrs. F. E. Pitt, Mrs. Elsie T. Walker, Stephen Payne, and Mrs. B. B. Archer. The first board of trustees: Dr. L. Walker, Rev. E. L. Clark, and B. B. Archer. First clerk, Dr. L. Walker.

Milford church was organized in September, 1870, with nine members, viz., Rev. W. Z. Hazelwood and wife, A. A. Messenger and wife, John Burkett and wife, S. K. Keyes and wife, and Mrs.

E. Davison. The church flourished for some years and erected a house of worship, but many of the members moving away, and other causes, caused the church to disband.

Blue Valley church was organized in May, 1872, with six members. This little church flourished for four or five years, and at one time had eighteen members, but it disbanded and its members found homes in other churches.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

The Catholic congregation built a very creditable church edifice at Seward in 1877. They also have a substantial parsonage.

The Utica church was built in 1882. Each church has a large membership.

We would have been glad to give a more extended account of their churches, but the data were not attainable.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

The first members were: Wm. H. Reed, Patrick Davidson, A. J. Waterman, Lee H. Smiley, Nancy C. Reed, Sophia Davidson, Elizabeth J. Waterman, Mary J. Smiley, Ester Smiley, Sallie M. Smith, Marian Hooker, and Sophia D. Hooker. A. J. Waterman and Patrick Davidson were the first deacons, and Lee H. Smiley was first clerk. A new brick church was erected in 1884, at a cost of \$3,500. The membership at present is 64, and under the pastorate of Rev. S. G. Lamb, the church is in a flourishing condition.

HISTORICAL SKETCH, BY REV. H. A. FRENCH.

On the 10th day of April, 1869, a council met at Milford to assist in perfecting the organization of the Congregational church of Milford, and receive it into the fellowship of Congregational churches. Twelve persons entered into covenant with the church at its organization.

During the remainder of the year 1869, nine persons were received into membership by letter, and none dismissed. In 1870, ten persons were received into membership by letter, and two removed by death. In 1871, none were received, and four dismissed. In 1872, four were received by letter, one upon profession of faith, and two were dismissed. In 1873, eleven were received upon profession of faith,

and four were dismissed. In 1874, nine were received upon profession of faith, and four were dismissed. Thus it will be seen that up to January 1, 1875, fifty-seven persons had been connected with the church, and sixteen dismissed, leaving the church with a membership of forty-one at the beginning of the present year.

Rev. T. N. Skinner became pastor of the church at its organization, and continued to sustain this relation till February, 1872, when the pastoral office became vacant. In the following May, H. A. French (a licentiate) was chosen to fill this office.

At first the church had no rules or regulations, except such as were found in the ecclesiastical society connected with it. In 1870, it adopted a code of by-laws. In January, 1873, it adopted a constitution and revised its by-laws; and in January, 1874, it again revised its polity and became incorporate.

During the year 1869, a house of worship—24x36—was built for the church, and situated on lots one and two, of block one, Milford, Seward county, Nebraska, and, according to the statement of the building committee, costing over sixteen hundred dollars. Of this amount, four hundred dollars came from the American Congregational Union.

There was at an early day a church at Beaver Crossing, but we are unable to learn anything of its history. There also appears to have been one at an early day at Germantown, which has disbanded.

Utica church was organized December 9, 1886, with the following charter members: Mrs. Nora Wright, Mrs. Emma Wright, Miss Barbary Davis, Miss Lillie Davis, Miss Hattie Davis, Clarence Wright, Charles Burnham, Mrs. Carrie Burnham, Mrs. Adie Brant, and Mrs. J. N. Liggett. Rev. A. B. Show organized the church and was the first pastor.

Seward church was organized May 9, 1887, with thirty-five members, most of whom had seceded from the Presbyterian church. The first officers were: Alex. M. Darley, pastor; J. C. Bradley and A. H. Bemis, deacons; F. H. McLain, clerk; S. R. Douglas, treasurer. Trustees, S. R. Douglas, Edmund McIntyre, L. R. Cottrell, Henry Morris, and R. P. Anderson. Present membership, forty. They now have enclosed and nearly completed the finest church in the county, being a two-story brick structure with belfry.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL FRIEDEN'S CHURCH AT SEWARD

[BY REV. P. SPEIDEL]

was organized on the 22d of September, 1878, by Rev. Christian Bek, with the following members, viz.: John Schmidt, George Goetz, Mathias Schmidt, Heinrich Meinberg, and Carl Maier. Soon after the organization was completed, the congregation bought lots 1, 2, and 3, in block 43, in Cloyd's addition, and built a neat little church edifice, and in 1885 they also built a parsonage, at a cost of \$1,000. A flourishing Sabbath-school is maintained, and also an elementary day school, and preparation for confirmation is maintained during the winter months. Present membership, forty. Charities consist in general church work, supporting the pastor, contributions to home and foreign missions, seminaries, orphan homes, and other benevolent institutions. The pastors were, Rev. Christian Bek, from 1878 to 1881; Rev. J. P. Welsch, from 1881 to 1883, and Rev. P. Speidel from June 1, 1884, to the present. The church is in a flourishing condition.

THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL FRIEDENS GEMEINDE CHURCH,

[WRITTEN BY REV. J. P. WELSCH,]

on the West Blue, is located in the south-east corner of Sec. 36, in O precinct, Seward county. The society was organized in the year 1874, by twelve members, viz.: Frank Bushboom, Andreas Budde, Heinrich Kemper, Arnold Kubitz, Herman Bruning, Heinrich Rogge, Robert Danekas, Heinrich Kartman, Gerhard Bruning, Wilhelm Kemper, John VanDeest, Wilhelm Riege. In a meeting of the society held on the 21st of June, 1874, it was resolved to buy the ten acres of land in the south-east corner of Sec. 36, in O precinct, then owned by Victor Vifquain. Up to the year 1876 the society held its meetings in school and private houses, during which time several different ministers preached here, viz.: Rev. Regier, of Lincoln; Rev. Schaster, of Swan creek; Rev. Irion, of Germantown.

On the 22d day of December, 1875, Rev. Gaertner was chosen pastor, and in 1876 a parsonage and house in one was built, 16x28. In 1877 Rev. Gaertner accepted a place in Concordia, Kansas, and the society was without its own pastor, but was served alternately by Rev. Vertz, of Crete, and Rev. Bek, of Seward. In 1878 Rev. J. P.

Welsch, of Burlington, Iowa, bought the south-east $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 36, O precinct, as by some particular circumstance it was again sold, and he allowed the society to retain its land. This gentleman was unanimously elected pastor November 3, 1878.

We are at present building a church 28x40, with a steeple fifty-five feet high, at an estimated cost of from \$1,800 or \$2,000, including a bell and organ. Of the first twelve members there are at present but seven. Frank Bushboom died, Andreas Budde returned to Germany, Arnold Kubitz moved west and was killed by the Indians, Herman Bruning and Gerhard Bruning moved west, where the latter died shortly afterwards, John VanDeest moved away. There are now eighteen members. A Sabbath-school was organized about five years ago, and now numbers thirty-six children as scholars. The hopes for the future are encouraging.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

[BY REV. K. T. GRUBER.]

The Evan. Lutheran Emmanuel's Congregation of Middle Creek, and the Evangelical Lutheran Zion's Congregation were both organized in the fall of 1870, the latter on Lincoln creek, near Marysville.

Trustees of Middle Creek Congregation were: Louis Leibrock, Diedrich Brandt, Conrad Roelrkasse. Members were: Conrad Grots, Franz Thomas, August Waldman, Diedrich Wilkens, Frederick Roepke, August Malte, Conrad Bagle, Earnest Boese, Wilhelm Lubbe, Andrew Schultz.

Trustees of the Lincoln Creek Congregation were: Fred Hartman, Fred Schueman, John Schoepf. Names of first members were: August Daeling, Wm. Daeling, Mr. Burgaenger, W. Meyer, Mr. Heitman, Mr. Herman, Mr. Fehlhäfer, F. Mayland, F. Hartman.

Rev. Karl Theodore Gruber was pastor of both congregations. Emmanuel's Congregation on Middle creek built a parsonage on Rev. Gruber's homestead, near Grots' school-house, in 1871.

The foundations of the stone church were laid May 8, 1873. The church, 24x36, was dedicated June 14, 1874. They maintain a private religious school, four days in a week. Present membership or number of families, 45. Present pastor, H. Bode. A second parsonage was built in 1882.

The Evangelical Lutheran Zion's Congregation, near Marysville,

had at first in charge Rev. Karl Theodore Gruber, next Rev. J. Seidel, next Rev. Haessler, and at present Rev. G. Weller. The first church was built and dedicated in the fall and winter of 1870. A parsonage was erected in 1872. A second and larger church was erected in 1874. The congregation is composed of 63 families at present. Prominent members that have died are: F. Scheumann and J. Schoepf. This congregation sustains a school, taught by Rev. Weller.

The Evangelical Lutheran Emmanuel's Congregation was organized by Rev. L. Huber. First trustees were: Henry Neujahr, R. Heitmann, and F. Gierhahn. A sod house, as a church, was erected in 1874, a frame church in 1876, and a frame parsonage in 1881. A new church was built in 1887, with a steeple 80 feet in height, and was dedicated December 4, 1887. First members were: K. Heitmann, H. Neujahr, D. Dey, F. Suhr, J. Suhr, F. Gierhahn, F. Stephens, A. Klebe, W. F. Voelske, Gustave Toenniges, A. Schultz, F. Neujahr. Number of members exceed 40. Rev. J. Seidel, Rev. Haessler, and Rev. G. F. Gruber, my brother, born in Germany 1835, have been the pastors, and the latter is still holding the place. H. Neujahr died in 1884.

The Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Seward, was organized by Rev. K. T. Gruber, December 10, 1877. First trustees were: Herman Deirs, O. E. Benecker, and C. Kroeger. First members, F. Goehner, Wm. Schultz, H. Kimmel, Mr. Kortge, and Mr. Benecker, Sen. and Jr., etc. The church was built in the fall of 1879, and dedicated November 9, 1879. Ministers were, from 1875 to 1880, Rev. K. T. Gruber, from 1881 to 1883, Rev. C. Bode, and at present, Rev. F. Koenig. The congregation is erecting a fine parsonage.

A number of the members of the church on Lincoln creek held a meeting near Orton and organized themselves as Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's Congregation, April 8, 1885. Trustees were: J. Metzner, F. Neujahr, and W. Neujahr. Other prominent members were: J. Schukai, G. Durher, etc. Number of families belonging to congregation, 12. A parsonage and church were built in 1885. The church was dedicated August 16, 1885. Present pastor is K. T. Gruber. They have a private school of 22 pupils, four days in a week, taught by Rev. Gruber.

There is also a small Evangelical Lutheran Congregation four miles south of Milford. They built a frame church in 1881. Pastor in charge, R. Gruber. Prominent members: A. Goldhammer, F. Krumirde, K. Kahle, etc.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

[BY REV. C. E. PHINNEY.]

Our first church was organized February 22, 1872, in L precinct at Prairie Grove. The class comprised nine members, and was organized by Rev. D. H. Walker. In September, 1873, Rev. C. E. Phinney received his appointment from the annual conference and took charge of the Seward mission, and under his care the following classes were organized: At Westfield, York county, January 10, 1874, a class of twenty-two members; in February of the same year, Pleasant Prairie class, at what is now Utica, with fourteen members, and April 29th following, a class was organized at Northfield, York county, in T. 11, range 1 west, with twelve members. He also organized a class in what is now J precinct, called South Prairie class, with eighteen members. In 1876 he organized Mound Prairie class, in what is now K precinct, with sixteen members. At this time the membership was 94. Rev. Phinney continued pastor until 1878, when Rev. C. S. Bradly served one year very efficiently. Rev. Phinney again took charge of the work for one year, when his health failed, and he was followed by Rev. Wynn, for one year, who was succeeded by Rev. A. L. Beggs, who had charge two years, and was followed by Rev. H. G. Claycomb, who had charge of the work nearly four years. C. E. Phinney again took the work in the last quarter of 1887. January 1, 1888, Rev. A. Byers is pastor.

The work has changed somewhat. In York county the classes have all united at Waco, where they have erected a good house of worship under the pastorate of Rev. Phinney.

That part in Seward county was united, and they have a fine church edifice that was dedicated September 12, 1877, on Sec. 14, in L township, which cost about nine hundred dollars. The church is in a flourishing condition. They maintain a good Sabbath-school.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN SEWARD COUNTY.

[BY REV. E. W. JOHNSON.]

Rev. E. W. Johnson organized the first church at the Slonecker school-house, in 1872. This was four miles west of Seward.

The Seward church was organized by Rev. Johnson in 1878. Their church edifice was erected and dedicated in 1880, by Bishop Wright. The present membership is seventy-five.

The church at Slonecker school-house removed their membership to Seward in 1882. Rev. E. W. Johnson was the first pastor, in 1872, and continued in charge until 1875, when Rev. Henry Lahr served the church one year. Rev. P. P. Landen was in charge in 1876, and was followed in 1877 by the Rev. E. L. Austin, when Rev. E. W. Johnson was again placed in charge in 1878, and served the church three years. Rev. M. Waltenire was pastor in 1881, and in 1882 Rev. J. M. Eads had charge. In 1883 Rev. O. D. Cone was pastor, and was followed in 1884 by Rev. J. M. Duffield. In 1885 Rev. Cone was again placed in charge, and died while in charge. He was followed by Rev. J. R. Hamer, who completed the year 1885. Rev. J. J. Lohr served in 1886, and was followed by the present incumbent, Rev. F. W. Jones.

A church was organized in 1886 at a school-house in the north part of "B" precinct, by the Rev. Lohr, and in the fall of 1887 the church have undertaken the erection of a house of worship at the new railroad station in "B" town.

Rev. O. D. Cone, who died at the post of duty, was a very worthy and intelligent minister, and was universally honored wherever known, and dearly beloved by all his parishioners. In his death the church sustained the loss of one of its most able and valuable defenders, and the community one of its most highly honored citizens.

[BY REV. F. W. JONES.]

The history of the church in "B" precinct has been a varied one. The United Brethren in Christ has been no exception. The cause has chiefly been the unsettled state of society. That restless spirit that obtains in the western people has led in the past many of the settlers of "B" precinct to seek homes elsewhere, and a large majority of the church membership were among the number. But a better day has dawned on the U. B. church in "B" precinct. It has within the last year taken on a permanent character. In the month of February, 1887, Rev. J. J. Lohr, responding to the pressing calls of the few faithful brethren that were holding the ground against great opposition, held a series of meetings at what is called and known as Bachelder's school-house near the present railroad station, "B," on the F.,

E. & M. V. R. R. This meeting resulted in a great awakening throughout the community. Many started in the way of a better life. The permanent work of Mr. Lohr at this place is most satisfactory. The result of his labors was the organization of a church of fifteen members, the most prominent citizens of the community being among the number.

The closing of the conference year, in March following, closed Mr. Lohr's labors at this point. The conference held in Lincoln, Neb., in the same month, appointed F. W. Jones as the successor of Mr. Lohr, and up to this writing he is still in charge of the church. The work has been very prosperous so far this year. The church has a prosperous Sunday-school connected with its work. In August, 1887, the quarterly conference appointed a prospective board of trustees for said church. The names of these trustees are, J. W. Bachelder, W. S. Ford, T. J. Drake, D. T. Johns, and R. Cessna. As we have said, the object was only prospective, but after they, in conjunction with the pastor, had spied out the land, it was decided to proceed at once to build a church house, and to locate it in the town of "B." A subscription was circulated for that purpose, and within six days after starting over six hundred dollars were secured.

The style of the building is modern in its architecture. The building when completed will be a neat frame structure, twenty-eight by forty-six feet, fourteen foot studding. The building has a tower in front, eight by twelve, and is about forty-three feet high. The building is now ready to plaster, and will be finished as soon as the spring opens sufficiently. It will cost when completed and furnished about thirteen hundred dollars. The outlook for the U. B. church in "B" precinct is flattering indeed. The church building will be a credit to the denomination and the community that are working so faithfully in its completion. This church has a bright future before it, and with its efficient and consecrated membership will go forward to bless and help many a weary soul on the way to a better life.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

[BY REV. T. L. SEXTON, D.D.]

The work of the Presbyterian church in Seward county began very soon after the state was admitted into the Union. On the 25th of July, 1868, the Presbyterian church of Seward was regularly organ-

ized by the Rev. William McCandlish, district missionary of the presbytery of Missouri river. The public services on this occasion were conducted by Mr. M. C. Wilson, a licentiate of the presbytery of Hnntington, Pa., after which the following named persons were regularly organized as the First Presbyterian church of Seward, viz.: David Imlay, Dorcas Imlay, Sarah Ann Brown, Stites Wooley, Mary Ann Wooley, Wm. Imlay, Mary E. Imlay, Mary E. Pierce, Moulton N. Clark, and Louisa Josephine Imlay. David Imlay was elected elder, and Stites Wooley and Moulton N. Clark were chosen deacons. At this time an invitation was extended to Mr. M. C. Wilson to supply the church for one year, in connection with the Presbyterian church of Lincoln, but the records do not show that he accepted. From May 12 to September 2, 1870, Mr. G. B. Smith, a licentiate of Blairsville presbytery, supplied the church, and after completing his seminary course, in 1871, he returned and took permanent charge of the work.

Rev. Geo. B. Smith continued to labor as pastor of the church of Seward and throughout the county till May 1, 1876. The Rev. Chas. S. Marvin had charge of the church from June 1, 1876, to December 5, 1876. Rev. Enoch Benson was the minister in charge from May 1, 1877, to May 1, 1882. Vacant from May 1, 1882, to September 1, 1882. On the 16th of July, 1882, a unanimous call was extended to the Rev. Thos. L. Sexton, of Kossuth, Iowa, which was accepted by him, and he began work on the 1st of September, 1882. The church became self-supporting one year from this date, paying its pastor a salary of \$1,000 without any aid from the Home Mission board. After laboring for three years and a half, till March 1, 1886, the Rev. T. L. Sexton resigned his pastorate to accept the position of superintendent of mission work in the state. After hearing several candidates, the church called the Rev. Alex Darley, of Storm Lake, Iowa, who began work June 1, 1886. This was unfortunate for the church, as it was divided by internal troubles before the expiration of the first year, and part of the members withdrew and organized a Congregational church. After being vacant several months, the Presbyterian church called the Rev. Nathaniel Chestnut, of Missouri Valley, Iowa, who entered upon the work September 11, 1887, and is the present pastor.

During all these years there have been added to the original members two hundred and fifteen names, many of which represent persons

who have done much in moulding the moral character of the community. Many excellent families have gone forth from this church to render faithful and valuable service in other cities and communities. The present membership is seventy-five.

The Presbyterian church of Tamora was organized September 5, 1880, by Rev. Geo. L. Little, synodical missionary, with the following members: Mrs. Margaret Scott, Johnston W. Scott, Mrs. Nannie E. Scott, James B. Scott, Mrs. Carrie A. Scott, William Scott, Miss Mary Scott, Miss Anna B. Scott, Mrs. Cora I. Bisset, Mrs. Mary J. Bisset, Geo. W. Parker. Rev. Enoch Benson had charge of the church till January, 1884. Mr. W. C. Brass, a licentiate of the Binghamton presbytery, supplied the church from January to September, 1884. Rev. Oscar B. Thayer had charge from November 25, 1884, to November 25, 1885. Rev. B. F. Sharp began work November 29, 1885, and continued till November, 1887. Rev. Mark L. Milford is the present minister. The church building was erected in 1884, and was dedicated November 9, 1884, by Rev. T. L. Sexton, of Seward. The church is joined with Staplehurst in one pastoral charge.

The Presbyterian church of Staplehurst was organized by Rev. Geo. L. Little, synodical missionary, assisted by Rev. E. Benson, on the 16th of April, 1882, with the following named members: W. W. Hoops, Mrs. Lydia J. Hoops, Marcus Richtmyer, Mrs. Hannah M. Richtmyer, Martin Castle, Mrs. Emma Castle, H. G. Hosford, Mrs. Emma Hosford, Geo. Richtmyer, Miss E. Burhans, Mrs. Rachel McKay, J. W. Gladwish, Mrs. Lena A. Gladwish, Thos. Corr, Mrs. M. Corr, Mrs. E. Young, Albert E. Bradley, Mrs. Mary A. Bradley, Mrs. E. A. Jull, and Mr. Slupe. Nine of these are now left. The church building at Staplehurst was dedicated free from debt on the 29th of October, 1882, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Thos. L. Sexton, at that time the pastor at Seward. Staplehurst has been united with Tamora, and has enjoyed the services of the same ministers, and for the same length of time. The Presbyterian is the only church in the village.

M. E. CHURCH.

[BY REV. J. H. PRESSON.]

The history of Methodism in Seward county commences with its first settlement. It came with the first camp-fires that lit up the groves

and prairies, it was found in the hearts of many of the rugged pioneers, who sang the songs of the Wesleys while they followed the plow that broke the virgin soil. The Methodist itinerant, with his saddle-bags, bible, hymn book, and discipline, helped to lead the advance of civilization, and to establish in this beautiful land the gospel of the Son of God. Some of this number—preachers and laymen and devoted wives and mothers—have passed over and are numbered among the redeemed. Others are still with us, and are rejoicing in their well-earned victories. They see and enjoy this beautiful land which they have helped rescue from the wilds of nature, and have transformed into a paradise of christian civilization, a land of home and plenty, where God dwells in the hearts of many people, and where all may enjoy the benefits of our blessed christianity.

In the year 1870 Seward was the head of a very large circuit. It was then a place of two or three hundred inhabitants. The preacher was the Rev. C. W. Comstock, his charge consisted of the north half of Seward, west half of Butler, all of Polk, and the north half of York counties. Milford at this time was the head of another large circuit, embracing the south half of this county, part of Saline and York counties. The Rev. A. Blackwell was the pastor. The entire membership reported living within the bounds above mentioned was (85) eighty-five, except a few who lived in the extreme south-west corner of the county under the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Oliver.

In the spring of 1871 the Rev. Josiah Burlingame was appointed to Seward charge, then a mission, embracing the north-west part of Seward, south-west part of Butler, and all of Polk counties. The society at Seward at this time was the possessor of four lots situated just west of where our high school building now stands. These lots were the gift of Louis Moffitt, the original owner of the town, for the use of the society for a church and parsonage.

Milford this same year was supplied by the Rev. D. C. Brannon, under whose labors a great revival took place, and many of the best families of the town were converted and became members of the church. In 1872 Seward was left most of the year without a shepherd. In 1873 Rev. A. L. Folden was the pastor. During his administration the present church, a brick structure, was completed and dedicated. The Rev. Bishop Andrews, who was master of ceremonies, found it a hard task to provide for the debt, but through the

liberality of a few of the members, some of whom are yet living in this vicinity, the amount asked for was subscribed, and the first M.E. church of Seward county was dedicated to the service of God on the 29th day of December, 1874. Some of the trustees are still living in Seward, among whom is the Hon. W. R. Davis, who with one or two others became personally responsible for the debt, which took a number of years to wipe out. Too much praise can not be given the men and women who did so much for the cause of Christ in those early days.

This same year there was a church built at Milford, under the pastorate of the Rev. John Gallagher.

The Rev. T. L. McLean, who will be kindly remembered by many of the old residents as a man of ability and fine social qualities, served as pastor at Seward during the years 1875-6-7.

In 1878 Rev. J. W. Shank was appointed to Seward. Utica was made an appointment, and attached to Milford, with Thos. H. Worley as pastor. At the close of that year there were reported 184 members in the county. The parsonage—the main part of it—was built that year. It is amusing now to hear the ladies tell of the various methods used in order to raise money to pay for the home of their pastor. The following preachers have been from time to time appointed since at Seward: Rev. J. P. Roe, Peter Van Fleete, E. J. Willis, G. W. Selby, Geo. M. Morey, and the present pastor, Rev. J. H. Presson. At Milford, Van Fleete, Couffer, Rowe, Badeon, Morrison, and Campbell.

Milford is now an excellent charge, has a good frame church and parsonage valued at \$4,000, a membership of 76, and in the midst of a flourishing district of country is bound to soon become a power for good. Utica, as an appointment, embraces at present the town of Tamora, has a neat and comfortable church and commodious parsonage in the town of Utica, and a church building at Tamora valued at \$4,000; has over 100 membership, and is building up very rapidly. Many of the best families of both towns find a home and place of worship in the Methodist church. The pastors have been men of courage and ability. Germantown has no church building, and in consequence of this they have had a struggle to maintain themselves, but they have a parsonage and with three other appointments connected, all within this county, she is doing well for the cause of Christ and

Methodism. The membership at present is 100. There are now in the county five churches and five hundred members; seven Sunday-schools, with seventy officers and teachers, and 500 scholars.

REGULAR PREDESTINARIAN BAPTIST CHURCH,

Called New Hope, was constituted by Elder James M. True and Isaiah Wagoner, in the early part of 1884, with twelve constituent members. It now numbers about thirty members, and has as its pastor and moderator, Elder J. M. True, and as deacon, M. A. McBride. The regular meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month, and the Saturday before, near the Butler county line, in Seward county.

CHAPTER XI.

G. A. R.—SEWARD POST NO. 3—WINSLOW POST NO. 56—KEENAN POST NO. 137—MASONIC—OLIVER LODGE NO. 38—UTICA LODGE NO. 96—I. O. O. F.—UTICA LODGE NO. 101—SEWARD LODGE NO. 26—W. C. T. U. OF SEWARD—ANCIENT ORDER UNITED WORKMEN—SEWARD LODGE NO. 16.

SEWARD POST NO. 3, G. A. R.,

Was organized Dec. 16, 1880, by Capt. John S. Wood, of Omaha, Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Nebraska. The following were chosen officers:

J. N. Edwards, Commander; Wm. Hays, Senior Vice Commander; S. D. Love, Junior Vice Commander; D. H. Figard, Q. M.; A. W. Hageman, Surgeon; Jeff. Ogg, Adjutant; A. H. Edwards, Officer of the Day; J. D. Edwards, Sergeant Major; H. Vanderhoof, O. G.

The charter members were: H. M. Hinsdale, Jefferson Ogg, Thomas Corr, A. W. Hageman, Henry Vanderhoof, S. D. Love, Abraham Wallick, C. C. Jobs, J. C. Ford, C. K. Humphreys, G. W. Hoover, J. M. Fletcher, Wm. Hays, J. D. Messinger, J. N. Edwards, Wm. Clemons, A. H. Edwards, D. H. Figard, J. D. Edwards, Geo. W. Fuller, Geo. W. Whiting, Geo. H. Sidle, A. J. Williams, Thos. B. Siddons, Chas. Lyon, and Cyrus Fetterman.

The post started out with the above-named veterans, with the full hope of bringing in all the boys who wore the blue and that lived in reach of the post. The boys had camp-fire meetings, sung songs of the long ago, and mustered during the year 1881 the following members: Daniel W. Crouse, S. H. Marshall, Wm. Leese, H. M. Brooks, John H. Morris, S. N. Welsh, Benj. W. Walker, Henry Morris, L. G. Johns, E. H. Horn, Alfred Stephens, Jacob Andrews, John Larson, R. T. Cooper, Robt. W. Pound, J. L. S. Jackson, E. C. Archer, Ed. Cooper, J. C. Lockhart, Wm. Redford, L. G. Castle, M. Riehtmeyer, J. H. Anderson, C. C. Ternicliiff, Jas. W. Woods, A. M. Simpson, P. H. Steele, Henry Jett, John Ohlwiler, W. H. R. Phillips, John M. Thurman, Henry Creighton, Jas. Wright.

January 1, 1882, the following having been elected to fill the various offices of the post, were duly installed:

J. N. Edwards, Commander; Cyrus Fetterman, Senior Vice; Wm. Woods, Junior Vice; S. D. Love, Q. M.; A. W. Hageman, Surgeon; J. M. Fletcher, Chaplain; H. Vanderhoof, O. D.; C. K. Humphreys, O. G.; Wm. Clemons, Adjt.; D. W. Crouse, Q. M. S.; C. W. Lyon, Sergeant Maj.

The post continued to hold meetings during 1882, with some drawbacks, which were happily adjusted during the year by the men getting into a hall by themselves, and began to gather an outfit peculiarly needed in a post room.

The following were mustered during 1882: Daniel Brady, John Hanley, Jacob Cox.

In December, 1882, the post elected the following officers to serve for the ensuing year of 1883: S. D. Love, Commander; M. Thurman, Senior Vice; Wm. Woods, Junior Vice; C. K. Humphrey, Q. M.; A. W. Hageman, Surgeon; Daniel Brady, Chaplain; E. H. Horn, O. D.; H. M. Brooks, O. G.; H. Vanderhoof, Adjt.

During this year the post mustered a number of new members, and many good social gatherings were had, long to be remembered by the boys. The following were mustered in: Jas. Moorhead, John Westerhoof, S. J. Ashton, C. Chapin, S. R. Philips, Chas. Emerson, W. T. Olmstead, W. S. Saunders, Wm. Silence, John Welsh, D. C. McKillip, Henry Sanders, E. C. Parkinson (by transfer), M. Pilgrim, John Knobbs, Wm. Morgan.

December 1, 1883, the following were elected officers for the year 1884: E. C. Parkinson, Commander; C. C. Jobes, Senior Vice; A. W. Hageman, Junior Vice; H. Sanders, Chaplain; J. H. Welsh, Surgeon; C. K. Humphrey, Q. M.; A. H. Edwards, O. D.; M. Pilgrim, O. G.; H. Vanderhoof, Adjt.

The post started out for the year in good trim, and had many good camp-fires, tending to revive the veterans up and bring in some old comrades from the outside. During the year the following were brought in by muster, etc.: E. A. Hitchcock, John Rhoades, B. Chattuck, J. M. Strayer, Leander Callaghan, S. C. Stanwood, S. H. Carter, J. A. Mick (by transfer), Chas. P. Stephenson (by transfer), S. G. Jones, Wm. Wait, S. D. Dutton, G. W. Boyes, J. J. Redding, R. R. Schick, J. H. Walker, L. A. Welden, A. Crawford, C. Turner,

W. H. Walker, Geo. W. Lowly, P. Cameron, W. B. Barrett, Gen. Jas. M. True, J. P. Losee, J. C. Thomas, J. B. Ireland, C. E. Vanpelt, S. C. Burlingim, J. T. Dunrig, M. Millspaugh, C. C. Davis.

September 6, 1884, E. C. Parkinson resigned the office of Commander, and C. C. Jobes, who was then Sen. Vice, was elected to fill the vacancy until the next annual election, which occurred December 6, 1884, by the election of A. H. Edwards as Commander; A. W. Hageman, Sen. Vice; A. Crawford, Jun. Vice; C. Turner, Surgeon; J. M. Fletcher, Chap.; E. C. Parkinson, Q. M.; Lee Welden, O. D.; T. B. Siddons, O. G.; W. H. Walker, Adj. This year was a pleasant one with the veterans. They added many needed improvements to the post room, gathered in members, and got the post on a firm foundation. The following were mustered in during the year: John N. Halliday, John W. Gladwish, S. M. Caldwell, B. Smith, Rev. T. L. Sexton, C. Dunn, C. H. Goldsmith, W. P. Christian, M. D. Monley, Alf. Wilcox, Chas. Scribner, H. G. Hosford, W. R. Davis, E. Faust, W. J. Eatinger, Geo. W. Anderson, Jededia Austin, Joseph Miller (by transfer).

Dec. 5, 1885, election of officers resulted as follows: A. H. Edwards, commander; S. R. Phillips, Sen. Vice; Wm. Redford, Jun. Vice; Wm. Wood, Surgeon; H. Saunders, Chap.; E. C. Parkinson, Q. M.; L. A. Weldon, O. D.; M. D. Monley, O. G.; W. T. Olmstead, Adj. The year of 1886 was an auspicious one for the post. Many valuable improvements were made and many good old camp-fires were had. There were mustered during the year as follows: B. Lindsey, D. C. Conley, Orrin Squires, C. M. Clark, Rev. John Lohr, Alex. Davis, Rev. J. H. Presson, D. C. Work, Jacob Lawsha.

Dec. 4, 1886, the election resulted as follows: A. W. Hageman, Commander; Wm. Redford, Sen. Vice; T. B. Siddons, Jun. Vice; J. M. Strayer, Q. M.; Wm. Woods, Surgeon; J. H. Presson, Chap.; E. C. Parkinson, O. D.; B. Lindsey, O. G.; D. C. Work, Adj. During this year many were brought in who had long been on the outside and found that they needed a home among the "boys." The following were mustered: Jesse Knight, Amos Collman, J. W. Wharton, Nelson Taylor, Robert O'Dell, John Woods, A. A. Palmer, R. H. Woodward, L. J. Grant, C. F. Dawley, I. D. Neihardt (by transfer), John R. Wenciker, A. L. Goss, J. G. Baylis, B. Fuller,

F. Morton, A. G. Compton (by transfer), L. V. Bolon (by transfer), Jas. Devine.

Dec. 3d, 1887, the following were elected for the ensuing year: Henry Morris, Commander; Wm. Redford, Sen. Vice; D. H. Figard, Jun. Vice; J. H. Presson, Chap.; S. N. Welsh, Surg.; J. M. Strayer, Q. M.; A. H. Edwards, O. D.; M. Millsbaugh, O. G.

The post has exerted a great influence for good during its existence, and has always demonstrated the principles of the organization, to-wit, fraternity, charity, and loyalty; and in extending the helping hand to those of its membership, or the old veterans outside, has done so in such a manner as to exemplify the adage, "that it is more blessed to give than receive," and that it was a privilege to aid the needy comrades or their families. Several hundred dollars have been expended by the post in helping the old veterans and the widows and orphans living in the vicinity. The post has a burial plat in the Seward cemetery in which to lay the remains of those comrades that were without means to provide the same.

In the department encampment the post has been conspicuous for its ability and influence. During the year 1882, the state re-union came very near being held at Seward through the efforts of its representatives and the citizens of Seward.

The post has been honored by the selection of J. N. Edwards and E. C. Parkinson as members of the department council of administration, and J. H. Presson as Chaplain of the department; also having elected J. N. Edwards several times a delegate to the national encampment.

The membership in good standing, as shown by the quarterly report dated September 30, 1887, was one hundred and three (103) and the desire to join the G. A. R. seems to increase on the part of many old veterans that have heretofore hesitated to connect themselves with any soldier organization.

Since the post has been established there have been mustered out by death only two of its members—Daniel Brady and John F. Haney.

The prospects of the post for the future seem bright, and it hopes to gather in all the old veterans in its vicinity, realizing the fact that the material from which recruiting can be made is fast passing away, and it is desirable that all the old veterans should stand elbow to elbow. As age demonstrates that many years have passed since their

interests began, and as there is strength in united action, it is greatly to their mutual good that they should combine themselves together to exemplify loyalty to country and to each other.

Approved by Post, Dec. 14, 1887.

D. C. WORK,
Adjutant.

WINSLOW POST NO. 56, G. A. R.,

Was instituted Sept. 1, 1880—the first post of the G. A. R. organized in the county—and was composed of the following veterans as charter members: J. H. Culver, Co. K, 1st Wis. Inft.; J. S. Dillenbeck, Co. L, 20th N. Y. Cav.; G. W. Lazenby, Co. L, 7th Iowa Inft.; J. C. Hogoboom, Co. A, 95th Ills. Inft.; A. F. Duryea, Co. A, 5th N. Y. Inft.; J. B. Mitchell, Co. C, 112th Ills. Inft.; S. D. Eastman, Co. C, 23d Wis. Inft.; John T. Wilson, Co. G, 21st Mich. Inft.; Charles Phœnice, Co. F, 57th Penn. Inft.; Sam'l Stadler, Co. C, 25th Mich. Inft.; J. G. Howard, Co. K, 5th Mich. Cav.; E. R. Brown, Co. K, 16th Wis. Inft.; J. A. Miller, Co. F, 211th Penn. Inft.; G. V. Hageman, Co. D, 103d Ills. Inft.; H. C. Atwood, Co. B, 45th Iowa Inft.; E. Swank, Co. E, 133d Penn. Inft.; John Harmon, Co. C, 78th Ills. Inft.; Jos. Swearingen, Co. H, 140th Penn. Inft.

The post is named in honor of Capt. Winslow, commander of the U. S. ship Kearsage, that captured and sunk the famous rebel cruiser, Alabama. At the time of her capture the Alabama had taken refuge in the port of Cherbourg, France, and was ordered to leave by the French government. As soon as she reached the high seas, Capt. Winslow pursued her, and an engagement took place which resulted in her capture and destruction.

As Milford is the acknowledged watering place, it was thought appropriate to give the post the name of some hero of the navy.

The following commanders have presided over its deliberations:

J. H. Culver, two terms; G. M. Couffer, one term; J. H. Davidson, one term; D. C. Work, one term; J. A. Miller, one term; A. Hiller, one term; Dr. A. K. Seip, now in command. The post is in a flourishing condition.

MAJ. KEENAN POST NO. 137, G. A. R.,

Department of Nebraska, was instituted at Beaver Crossing, April 5, 1883, by Commander D. C. Work, Deputy, the following old soldiers

and comrades having petitioned the Department Commander for a charter, which had been duly granted: P. H. Steele, J. L. S. Jackson, C. H. Reed, W. P. Ostrander, T. J. McQuillan, J. C. Boicourt, Alonzo Coon, J. W. Draper, Thos. Tydyman, Jas. Irrom, Daniel Nelson, T. J. Foster, W. H. Mygatt, O. Culver, E. Atwater, J. M. Hunter, Wm. Collier, J. F. Sloan, J. T. Pinkerton, J. G. Burkett, E. D. Blanchard, J. T. Gibbs, J. H. Waterman, and F. Tremper.

The following comrades were elected and installed as officers of the post at the next regular meeting, held on April 10, 1883, by mustering officer J. H. Culver: Commander, P. H. Steele; Sen. Vice Commander, E. Atwater; Jun. Vice Commander, J. L. S. Jackson; Adjutant, C. F. Reed; Quartermaster, T. J. Foster; Surgeon, D. Nelson; Chaplain, J. T. Pinkerton; Officer of the Day, J. C. Boicourt; Officer of the Guard, Wm. Collier; Sergeant Major, T. J. McQuillan; Quartermaster's Sergeant, W. P. Ostrander.

The name Keenan was adopted in honor of the brave major who gave his life for his country.

The post continued to prosper and soon numbered thirty-four members, and afterwards increased to thirty-eight. Many of the charter members have removed to other localities, so that now but twenty members are upon the rolls. Various causes have helped to reduce the membership. The present condition of the post is flourishing, and it expects to continue the organization until the last comrade has responded to the last roll call, and that grim mustering out officer, death, has made his last demand upon our number.

The present officers are as follows: Commander, E. Atwater; Sen. Vice Commander, R. Jones; Jun. Vice Commander, M. Gibbs; Quartermaster, J. T. Gibbs; Adjutant, F. Tremper; Surgeon, Wm. Rumsey; Chaplain, George Foster; Officer of the Day, W. P. Ostrander; Officer of the Guard, O. Culver; Sergeant Major, G. W. Winand.

MASONIC FRATERNITY.

Oliver Lodge No. 38, A. F. and A. M., was organized under dispensation July 29, 1871, by the following members, to-wit: C. J. Richmond, W. H. Tuttle, J. W. Dupin, Samuel Manley, A. W. Sperry, L. W. Manning, Thos. Corr, H. S. Faucett.

In September, 1872, it seems there was a new dispensation or a renewal of the first granted to the following members: Thos. Corr,

William Hayes, H. C. Page, T. L. Norval, L. G. Johns, S. D. Paddock, Samuel Manley, Wm. Leese, John Helms, James Hackney, J. W. Dupin, and W. H. Tuttle.

June 18, 1873, a charter was granted, which bears the following names of members and officers: William Leese, W. M.; T. L. Norval, S. W.; Aurelius Roberts, J. W.; J. W. Shields, Treasurer; J. W. Dupin, Secretary; Thomas Corr, Nathan Clough, O. P. Cope, M. Dunigan, James Hackney, Wm. Hayes, L. G. Johns, J. C. Langton, Horace Lester, Samuel Manley, L. W. Manning, Geo. Miller, S. D. Paddock, H. C. Page, C. J. Richmond, Madison Rogers, Robert Rowbottom, W. T. Shields, I. B. Sorter, Sam. Stevenson, J. C. Sullivan, Joel Tishue, A. B. Sutton, Joseph Whitson, and O. T. B. Williams. The first Worshipful Master was G. J. Richmond; first Sen. Warden, W. H. Tuttle; first Jun. Warden, Sam. Manley.

The lodge at this writing has 90 members, and is in good financial condition. The present officers are: Wm. M. Rosborough, W. M.; F. G. Simmons, S. W.; A. J. Williams, J. W.; S. D. Atkins, S. D.; A. D. Hicks, J. D.; W. B. Barrett, Treas.; W. H. Walker, Sec'y; L. A. Weldon, Tyler. The order has decided to build a fine hall this year, and has chosen the lots just north of the Windsor house, on the corner of Main and Sixth streets.

UTICA LODGE NO. 95, A. F. AND A. M.

On the 14th day of July, 1882, a dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to Joseph Jones, E. J. Porter, Thomas E. Standard, Stephen H. Hobbie, Lyman Calder, Robert Marler, Samuel H. Beaver, James E. Hibbard, Joseph J. Pounder, David M. Roland, George A. Verbach, and Edmund L. Blanchard, all Free and Accepted Masons, to assemble as a lodge of Free Masons at Utica, Neb. Having passed the proper term of probation, a charter was granted on the 19th day of June, 1883, to the above-mentioned petitioners, together with the following members: Thomas C. Allen, Andrew Austine, John C. Bicourt, Cyrus Black, Thomas Black, Thomas J. Brant, William Dingman, Ira Lapham, James E. Murphy, Calvin E. Phinney, Presley Pindell, and Harvey Robinson. They were organized as a regular and constitutional lodge of Master Masons by the name of Utica Lodge No. 96, with the following officers: Joseph Jones, W. M.; E. J. Porter, S. W.; Lyman Calder, J. W.; Samuel

H. Beaver, Sec.; Robt. Marler, Treas.; Stephen H. Hobbie, S. D.; James E. Hibbard, J. D.; Thomas E. Standard, Tyler; Joseph J. Pounder and Edmund L. Blanchard, Stewards.

The lodge thus organized steadily progressed under a fair state of prosperity until the year 1888. The lodge lost one—John Davies—by death April, 1887, and some have been demitted and moved to other parts of the country, leaving a present membership numbering forty-six (46) January, 1888. The present office bearers are as follows; Joseph Jones, Master; Charles H. Wray, S. W.; Daniel J. Hartrum, J. W.; James E. Hibbard, Treasurer; Thomas J. Brant, Secretary; John W. Runyan, S. D.; Frank M. Congill, J. D.; Darius D. Potter, S. S.; James E. Murphy, J. S.; Daniel P. Sherwood, Tyler.

UTICA LODGE NO. 101, I. O. O. F.

Instituted July 10, 1882, at Utica, Neb., by J. T. Hedrick, G. M. of G. L. of the state of Nebraska, assisted by T. C. Evans, D. G. M., A. T. Rice, V. G. M., J. J. Brown, R. S., C. J. Elkart, G. G., and J. C. McCord, G. C.

The charter members were: G. A. Derby, Joseph Kimmell, E. L. Blanchard, David Doan, E. C. Whitnah, John G. Allison, John A. Boon, C. C. Berrard, Wm. J. Derimer, and Geo. Goodbrod.

After the organization the lodge received the petition of J. R. Toman and Julian E. Phinney, who were initiated as members and received all the degrees and became full members, constituting a lodge of twelve (12) members to start with.

The next business was the election of officers, and resulted as follows: J. A. Boon, N. G.; G. A. Derby, V. G.; J. R. Toman, Sec.; Geo. Goodbrod, Treas., who were duly installed into their several offices by Grand Master J. T. Hedrick.

When the lodge was organized they, together with the Masonic lodge, had built a hall 24x48 ft., but they were in debt for the larger portion of it. Since their organization they have taken in some twenty new members and had withdrawn by card some ten members, leaving present membership twenty-two. They have paid for the hall and are clear of debt, and now have \$233 in the treasury.

The present officers of the lodge are: R. S. Nier, N. G.; Geo. Goodbrod, V. G.; W. H. DeBolt, Sec.; and G. A. Derby, Treas. Officers elected for the ensuing year: J. A. Boon, N. G.; Chas.

Humberger, V. G.; R. S. Nier, Sec.; G. A. Derby, Treas.; G. A. Derby, Dist. Dept.

While it is a fact that there has been a lukewarm indifference in the interest and attendance at the lodge for the past six months, the lodge is now again in a prosperous condition.

SEWARD LODGE NO. 26, I. O. O. F.

The Odd Fellows of Seward became an organized body May 30, 1871, having L. G. Johns, W. R. Davis, T. D. Green, J. H. Anderson, D. H. Figard, Lewis Anderson, J. W. Shields, and J. K. McGavren as charter members, and L. G. Johns, N. G., D. H. Figard, V. G., J. H. Anderson, Secretary, and T. D. Green, Treasurer, as its first officers; Samuel Pence was the first initiated candidate. The lodge is now progressing rapidly, and holds a membership of 60; a fine hall was built by this order in 1886, which is used by nearly all the other secret societies for their meetings. The order is in a good condition, and has a degree staff which vastly improves the rendition of its work. The present officers are: Noble Grand, J. S. Kittle; Vice G., E. P. Smith; Secretary, Walter A. Leese; Treasurer Samuel Pence.

Milford Lodge No. 18, I. O. O. F., was the first organized body in Seward county.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

In April, 1884, an auxiliary branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Seward, with thirteen members. President, Mrs. C. M. Woodward; Vice Pres., Mrs. T. L. Sexton; Rec. Sec., Mrs. E. B. Ireland; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Ada Van Pelt.

Through the efforts of this society, in 1886 a Y. W. C. T. U. was organized, a Band of Hope, and also a Reform Club. Present membership, 25. The society has done much good work in the temperance field and in charitable works.

ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

Seward Lodge No. 16, A. O. U. W., was instituted on September 27, 1883, by T. A. Forman, Deputy Grand Master Workman. The organization started with twenty-five charter members, as follows: J. S. Leonhardt, L. M. Smith, R. S. Norval, C. N. Emilton, W.

A. Schell, E. A. Polley, C. M. Hovey, W. N. Walker, Louis Stahl, W. J. Taylor, J. R. Erfort, Louis Leibrock, Henry Petri, Bernhardt Kohn, V. Miner, S. D. Atkins, A. J. Senter, F. G. Simmons, Wm. Clemmons, E. H. Fletcher, Wm. Schultz, C. Grabenstein, H. Hartwick, H. M. Waring, and W. O. Whitcomb. Henry Hartwick was the first Master Workman, and Smith D. Atkins was the first Recorder. The Master Workmen since that time have been E. A. Polley, C. N. Emilton, F. G. Simmons, and J. F. Stevens.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen is a fraternal organization, and combines with the usual features of such organizations a system of protection for the families of its members, which has made it very popular. The order was instituted about seventeen years ago, in Pennsylvania, John J. Upchurch being the man who conceived the idea and put it into operation. The order rapidly spread, and its founder lived to see it carried into every part of the United States, as well as into Canada.

At the time Seward Lodge was instituted, the state of Nebraska was under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. In 1886 Nebraska organized a Grand Lodge of her own, and since that time has had a separate jurisdiction. The order in Nebraska has grown more rapidly since then than ever before, and the Lodge of this city has kept pace with the general growth in the state. It has now over eighty members in good standing, and is in a very prosperous and healthy condition. It has lost no members by death since its organization, having been particularly fortunate in this respect. Among its members are many of the best business men of the city. It may certainly be considered an element of good in the community, and something of which the city of Seward may be proud.

CHAPTER XII.

LANCASTER COUNTY—ITS GROWTH AND PROGRESS SINCE THE LOCATION OF THE STATE CAPITAL WITHIN ITS BOUNDS IN 1867—STATE INSTITUTIONS—EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS—RAILROADS—BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL HISTORY.

BY HON. C. H. GERE.

The author of this work, who pictures with so much vividness the primitive struggles of the early settlers of Lancaster county, says that it is a very difficult matter for him to realize, when he traverses the scenes of these personal experiences, that all the changes wrought by the enterprise of the people and the rapid settlement of this section of the state have been witnessed in less than a generation, and that the young men who commenced the improvement of the valley of the Salt are still in the vigor of manhood. Certainly the progress of Nebraska, as exemplified in the brief history of Lancaster county, is upon the whole the most marvelous that has been seen in this country since its original settlement. From that August day in 1867, when its central point and county seat was selected by the commissioners for the site of the state capital, the growth of Lancaster has been phenomenal.

That there was something in her geographical position that tended to the metropolitan, is proven by the fact that Lincoln has made far more than the customary progress of a country town selected from its central location and convenience of access as the seat of a state government. In twenty years she has outstripped the large majority of the capitals of the older states, stands to-day with a population of 45,000, one of the important commercial centers of the Northwest, and is beginning to lay the foundations of important and extensive manufacturing enterprises.

The act that made Lincoln a "fiat city," located the state house within her limits, and provided that it should be built from the proceeds of the sale of the lots in the odd numbered blocks, provided also that reservations should be made in and around the "permanent

capital" from the state lands or lots of sites for a state university, an insane hospital, and a penitentiary.

The state house and the university reservations consisted of four blocks each, containing about twelve acres situated on two of the most prominent elevations within the old city limits, and about a mile apart as the streets run. The university was placed near the northeast corner of the original plot, and the state house toward the southwest corner. The two other prominent elevations were marked with the sites of the "market square" now the Federal reservation for a court-house and post-office building, and by the court-house reservation, also one block, on which the county is about to erect a fine county building. In this way the commissioners desired to scatter the concentrating points for the future city and prevent the tendency to huddle all the business in one small neighborhood. This distribution of centers was an assistance in the lot sales, for no one could definitely say just where the business of Lincoln would concentrate, and there was a larger latitude for private judgment and good guess work in the selection of lots on which to make their speculative ventures.

As was the case in the infancy of Washington City, the distribution of these points gave the town a very straggling and ragged appearance for several years, but at present the wisdom of the commissioners is apparent. There is really no convenience in the huddling together of all the public buildings in a large city.

The wing of the State House, provided for by the act of location, to be built out of the moneys received from the first lot sales, was finished and ready for occupancy by the time the legislature of January, 1869, gathered for its session. That legislature proceeded to organize the University of Nebraska, and passed a bill providing for the erection of the first university building, which now stands in the center of the campus. It also provided for the building of the first insane hospital, which stood on the site of the present immense building, but was destroyed by an incendiary fire, soon after its occupation.

The same legislature, in an extra session, passed an act for the commencing work on a penitentiary building. The commissioners had selected eighty acres of land on a prominent elevation for the site of the hospital, about two miles from the center of the city southwest, and the penitentiary was given a forty-acre tract south of the

city three miles away. Over a million dollars have been expended in enlarging the first erections on these sites, and the city has extended its additions until they reach to the very edge of these two state reservations.

A few years later an association of ladies, with their headquarters at Lincoln, but with auxiliary branches in nearly every county in the state, organized a charity known as "The Home of the Friendless," the object being to care for helpless women and children stranded by the misfortunes or the vices of those who should be their guardians. A building was erected by private subscription, and for a time the institution did much in a quiet way to relieve distress among these classes. The legislature then came to the assistance of the ladies, appropriated liberal sums for the enlargement and the extension of the buildings, which are situated in the southern part of the city, and paid regular salaries to the matrons and assistants. The Home now shelters an average of a hundred women and children, keeping the latter under its wing until suitable provision can be made for them by adoption or they can go out to learn some trade or useful occupation.

The first university building was constructed of brick, at a cost of \$139,000, was completed in 1871, and in September of that year the board of regents inducted a chancellor and faculty into possession of the premises, and the university commenced its great work. It has made steady progress in the number of its faculty, instructors, and students, keeping time to the march of the great commonwealth, and at present about three hundred students are enrolled, of whom over two hundred are members of the regular college classes, the number of the preparatory students, in comparison with the university students, constantly diminishing as the high schools in the state are attaining sufficient numbers and effectiveness to prepare students for the freshman class in the university.

At the time of its organization the State Agricultural or Industrial College was attached to it as one of the group of colleges. In course of time a farm of three hundred and twenty acres was acquired by the regents as an experiment station and a working place for such students of agriculture as desired to obtain practical knowledge and at the same time earn sufficient in odd hours to pay their expenses in whole or in part. The original improvements of the farm have been added to for the accommodation of the station, and

the instructor in agriculture resides there. The station is about two miles east of the original site, but is now surrounded by "additions" and the city actually extends to its gates.

A recent act of congress appropriated \$15,000 per annum to each state experiment station connected with the state agricultural or industrial college, and the regents, by immediately complying with the conditions of the act, were able to avail themselves of the appropriation and add much to the usefulness of the corps that are investigating the diseases of domestic animals, the injurious insects and fungi, the geological formations and chemical components of soils, and the possibilities of profitable irrigation from our natural streams, or from artesian wells and artificial reservoirs. A building for the investigation of animal diseases is being erected on the farm the present season, costing about \$3,000.

A chemical laboratory was erected on the university campus in 1886, at a cost of \$35,000, and a large sum spent in its equipment. It is a model in its arrangement and equipment, and has attracted the attention of educators all over the country to the perfection of its design and the carefulness of its detail. The legislature of 1887 provided the sum of fifteen thousand dollars out of the general funds of the state, to be added to \$5,000 appropriated by the regents, to erect an armory and gymnasium on the university grounds for the use, primarily, of the cadets in military tactics, on condition that the building should be a memorial to Gen. U. S. Grant. It is rapidly approaching completion, as is also another large university building designated as "Industrial Hall," which will be occupied in part by the departments of agriculture, horticulture, botany, and geology, the high basement rooms being intended for the accommodation of a manual training department, where the use of tools will be taught, and rudimentary mechanical instruction will be given to students in the industrial department. This building will cost about \$50,000.

One educational institution draws another, and the Nebraska conferences of the Methodist Episcopal church accepted a donation of a large body of land lying just beyond the university experimental farm, as a site for their chief institution of learning, the Wesleyan University, and have erected a building thereon of great architectural beauty, costing \$75,000. It will soon be opened and it is expected that it will start out with an attendance of two hundred students. A

street railway is being built to it past the college farm, and a large "addition" to Lincoln has been laid out in lots and sold in its immediate vicinity, and is being dotted with residences.

The Christian church has already accepted a site in the same neighborhood for its denominational university, and expects to put up its buildings in a short time. The Baptists are also negotiating for a university site, and it is probable that they will also establish their college or university near Lincoln. The Episcopal Diocese contemplates the establishment of an academical school for boys in or near this city. In short, the prospect is good that in a few years Lancaster county will be one of the principal educational centers of the West, and will have within its boundaries more classical institutions than any other county in the country.

The common school buildings of the county are none the less the peculiar pride of her citizens. They were the first costly buildings erected, and in Lincoln and the other towns and villages scattered over her broad expanse, the fine brick and stone structures that accommodate the schools are the wonder and admiration of eastern visitors.

Much as the political and educational importance of the capital city has contributed to the prosperity of Lancaster county, the value of the farming land that could a few years ago be bought from the first settlers for a trifle per acre, has been still more enhanced by the commercial importance of the city and by the numerous stations on the several railroads that traverse it, which gives every farmer in the twenty-four townships access to a market not far removed from his door. The Burlington and Missouri River Railway, the Union Pacific R. R., the Atchison and Nebraska R. R., and the Midland Pacific R. R. traverse the county from side to side, while the Missouri Pacific and the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroads are extended as far as Lincoln from St. Louis and Chicago. These, with a north-western branch of the Burlington, form nine concentrating lines to the capital and connect it with almost every county seat in the state. The two lines last mentioned will soon extend to the west and south, the Lincoln, Red Oak, and Des Moines company will shortly construct an eastern air line route toward Chicago, and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific has made a survey from Omaha, via Lincoln, to Fairbury, increasing, when these are finished, the number of spokes to her commercial wheel to fourteen.

On these roads outside of Lincoln there are twenty-five stations or distributing points within the boundaries of Lancaster county, an average of a little more than one station for every six miles square, or township, each of which is growing into a village, and several of which are already towns of considerable commercial importance for local trade, having regular town governments. In the near future, when the lines now in contemplation shall be completed, there will be from thirty-five to forty of these traffic centers in Lancaster. With such wonderful facilities for marketing their produce, the farmers of the county may rest assured that their possessions will always command the highest value and be of ready sale.

At West Lincoln, two miles from the city, a manufacturing suburb is rapidly growing that is destined to add much to the wealth of the county and to the value of its farming lands. Extensive stock yards, two packing houses, a brick and tile factory of great capacity, a canning and provision establishment, a vinegar factory, and other establishments have drawn in two years a population of several hundred, and many other similar enterprises are on foot to make it one of the busiest spots in the West.

Seven Lincoln houses are engaged in the grain business, owning among them seventy-five elevators at various convenient points on the railroads for collecting and shipping the staples of Nebraska, while ten eastern firms, located in Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore, Toledo, and Burlington, have branches here, competing in the great grain market of Nebraska.

Eighty-four wholesale and jobbing houses in Lincoln were doing business in 1887, and they sold goods to the amount of fifteen million dollars. The grocery and agricultural implement branches of the jobbing trade did business to the amount of five millions.

The majority of these houses are still in their infancy, and there is no doubt that they will double the aggregate amount of their sales for the year 1888, while many new firms will commence operations, as the field for business is an immense one, covering, by close estimates, in Nebraska, north-western Kansas, eastern Colorado, and Wyoming, an area of more than 80,000 square miles and a population of one million.

In manufacturing, Lincoln has made so far only a start, but is doing something. The record of 1887 shows sixty-nine establishments

whose aggregate product was nearly eight and a half million dollars. About three million dollars were expended during the same year in public and private buildings in the capital city. The aggregate value of churches and church lots belonging to the various religious denominations in Lincoln is half a million.

There are about twelve miles of street railway in Lincoln already down, and the mileage is largely to be increased during the present season. Twenty miles of street paving has been ordered and is being laid down as rapidly as the season permits. On an average a train of passenger or freight cars leaves the city every fifteen minutes during the twenty-four hours, an aggregate of 100 trains daily.

The old capitol building, the erection of which from the sales of city lots was mentioned in the beginning of this article, has been taken away and a new structure is being finished on its site during the present season, at a cost of \$440,000, and a sale of the remnants of the state lots last year, ordered by the legislature, realized about \$75,000, which will be spent in 1888 for embellishing the capitol grounds.

Lancaster county, after waiting all these years in the multiplicity of her public improvements, has voted a court-house, which will be erected the present season on the reservation granted by the state in the center of Lincoln, at a cost of \$200,000 for building and furniture.

This is the year of the real majority of the county, that had a name it is true before the location of the seat of government for Nebraska in her midst, but hardly an existence, and this slight sketch of her progress indicates that she has put in these twenty-one years to good advantage, and though she has not ceased growing, has made a record of which her sons and daughters may well be proud.

ORGANIZATION AND POLITICAL HISTORY.

In the fall of 1859 the first movement toward county organization was made. A public meeting was held under the "Great Elm" that stood on the east bank of Salt creek near the north-west corner of the B. & M. R. R. depot grounds in Lincoln. Festus Reed was elected chairman, and after a strong speech predicting the future greatness of the little commonwealth they were preparing to organize on the frontier, the business in hand was proceeded with. A. J. Wallingford, Joseph J. Forrest, and W. T. Donovan were appointed a com-

mission to select a location for the county seat, and they chose the present site of Lincoln, which was laid off in 1864 and named "Lancaster." An election was ordered by the commissioners of Cass county, to which the unorganized county west was attached for election and judicial purposes, to be held at the house of William Shirley, on Stevens creek, and judges and clerks of election duly commissioned. At this election, held on the 10th day of October, 1859, A. J. Wallingford, J. J. Forrest, and W. T. Donovan were elected a board of county commissioners, and Richard Wallingford was elected county treasurer, L. J. Loder, county clerk, and John P. Loder, recorder. No record of this election or of the official proceedings of the county officers are on file, except the certificates of the election and the qualification of L. J. and J. P. Loder, in the archives of the county. It is probable that little or no business was done under this temporary organization. On the 9th day of October, 1860, a general election took place, and was held at the house of W. T. Donovan for Lancaster county. Twenty-three votes were cast and the following names are found on the official poll list:

Jeremiah Showalter, Richard Wallingford, J. D. Main, C. F. Retzlaff, Jonathan Ball, Hiram Allen, Benj. Eaves, Festus Reed, Daniel Harrington, James Coultard, Benj. Hemple, Wm. Shirley, James Moran, J. J. Forest, E. L. Reed, Michael Shea, L. J. Loder, John Dee, A. J. Wallingford, Aaron Wood, Lucius West, J. P. Loder, and W. T. Donovan.

For delegates to congress, J. Sterling Morton received eleven votes, and Samuel G. Dailey twelve, showing a close contest. For councilman, equivalent to senator in a state, T. M. Marquett received 13 votes, and W. R. Davis 2. For "joint," or float councilman, Samuel H. Elbert received 15 votes, and — Cozad 1. For representative, Wm. Gilmore had 16 votes, Loudon Mullen 15, W. R. Davis 16, Wm. Reed 16, E. W. Barnum 12, and J. N. Wise 6.

For county officers the following were selected without opposition: Commissioners, one year, J. J. Forest; two years, A. J. Wallingford; three years, W. T. Donovan; treasurer, R. Wallingford; clerk, J. P. Loder. No candidate for sheriff, prosecuting attorney, or coroner appears to have been running, and probably there was not business enough expected in the legal line to pay for the trouble of getting up a ticket. Festus Reed and R. Wallingford were elected

justices of the peace, and C. F. Retzlaff and James Coultard, constables. Had all the offices the county was entitled to been filled, they would have gone more than half way round the entire voting population. There are no records of any official acts of these officers elect.

On the 8th of October, 1861, the county election was held at the house of James Moran, and only fourteen votes were cast. The new names appearing on the poll list preserved in the office of the county clerk are E. Galvin, E. L. Barrett, T. G. Maxwell, and Michael McDonald. Donovan, Wallingford, the Loders, Ball, Reed, Moran, Harrington, Dee, and Shea, again exercised the right of suffrage.

J. J. Forest was elected county commissioner; Festus Reed, probate judge; L. J. Loder, sheriff; J. P. Loder, clerk; C. L. Barrett, assessor; T. G. Maxwell and J. Moran, justices of the peace, and Jonathan Ball and C. F. Retzlaff, constables.

A record of an adjourned meeting of the county commissioners, after this election, held May 1, 1862, is the first sign of official life in Lancaster county to be found in the county clerk's office. This record occupies fifteen lines on a page of small commercial note paper, and informs us that the county was then and there divided into two election precincts, by a line running east and west through the centre of "town 10," and that a petition for a road from the south-east corner of section 31, town 9, range 7, and another from the south-east corner of section 36, town 9, range 6, and one from the south-east corner of section 16, town 12, range 6, were received. In what direction, and whither these roads were to run, the record saith not, and County Clerk J. P. Loder forgot to append his signature to the document. The board adjourned till July first, but probably did not meet again until after the October election.

At the election of 1862, held on the 14th of October, the division of the county into two precincts was disregarded. Fourteen votes were cast by Messrs. Cox, Mason, Foster, Calkin, Chatterton, Blunt, Wallingford, Ball, Chambers, Loder, Maxwell, VanBenthussen, Donovan, and Coultard. J. F. Kinney, independent democrat, received 10 votes, and Sam. G. Dailey 4, for delegates to congress. T. M. Marquett received 12 votes for councilman for the district. Geo. L. Seybolt received 10 and J. E. Doom 3 votes for joint or float councilman. Five other Cass county statesmen received from one to seven votes for representative, and T. G. Maxwell received 13, all it is pre-

sumed but his own suffrage, for the same office, but the other counties in the district not doing so well for him, he was not elected. Joel Mason was elected commissioner.

The next record is of a meeting of the board of county commissioners, held November 3, which ordered a special election to be held on the 17th of January, 1863, to fill vacancies in the offices of coroner, surveyor, and justices of the peace, and constables, as those previously elected had not qualified.

The next meeting was held February 5, 1863, and the officers elected at the special election, of which there is no record, are said to have been sworn in. The clerk was directed, at this meeting, to notify Judge Festus Reed to stop his depredations on the timber in school section, in town 9, range 6.

Another meeting was held September 12th, of the same year, and the county divided into four precincts, named Lancaster, Salt Basin, Stevens Creek, and Salt Creek, and the various places for holding elections were designated.

In 1863 the county election was held October 13, and an entire new set of officers were selected, fifty-five votes having been cast in the county.

J. S. Gregory was elected county commissioner for three years, William Shirley for two, and P. S. Schamp for one year. Clerk, Milton Langdon; treasurer, R. Wallingford; sheriff, Josiah Chambers; surveyor, J. J. Forest; coroner, Dr. Jno. Grim; probate judge, J. D. Main.

J. S. Gregory was elected to the state legislature for the representative district to which Lancaster belonged, and John Cadman, who lived in that part of the county then belonging to Clay, was elected for Clay, Johnson, and Gage counties, and took with him a petition from the residents of the northern and southern parts of Clay county for the wiping out of that county, and dividing it between Lancaster and Gage. This measure was consummated and the addition to Lancaster made her a county of no mean proportions, extending thirty-six miles from north to south, and twenty-four east to west.

The assessed valuation of Clay county at the time of its transfer was \$36,129.82, of which \$22,637.82 fell to the share of Lancaster. Her debt was \$295.11, of which Lancaster assumed \$185.70. The commissioners of Lancaster and Gage county held a meeting at the

house of H. W. Parker, clerk of Clay county, near Olathe, July 19, 1864, and made a final settlement of the affairs of the county. The document setting forth the terms of this settlement was signed by Fordyce Roper, F. H. Dobbs and William Tyler, commissioners of Clay county, and John W. Prey, of Lancaster, and attested by Oliver Townsend, clerk of Gage county, and duly filed. Copies of the official records of Clay county were made for Gage and Lancaster counties, but the latter were lost in Salt creek while *en route*, and have never been filed among the archives of this county.

At the time of the division of Clay county, the principal settlements were in the extreme north and south of its territory, and a large majority of its tax-payers were undoubtedly favorable to its division. But after the lapse of a few years, when the central part filled up with inhabitants, much discussion ensued as to the propriety of restoring the county, and several attempts have been made in that direction, but it is probable that the majority of the people in the territory involved are well satisfied with their present status. The clause on county division in the constitution adopted in 1875, will probably preclude any future agitation, and will establish our present boundaries for all time to come.

In 1864, at the territorial election held October 11th, eighty votes were polled; of which P. W. Hitchcock received 53, and Geo. L. Miller 27, for delegate to congress.

John Cadman was elected to the house of representatives for Lancaster county, and Wm. Imlay for the representative district composed of Lancaster, Seward and Saline counties. Richard Wallingford was elected county commissioner, P. S. Schamp, surveyor, and Milton Langdon, prosecuting attorney.

At the general election, October 10, 1865, one hundred and twenty-five votes were polled. Augustus Kountze, for territorial treasurer, John Gillespie, for auditor, received each 100 votes, and S. G. Goodrich and John Seaton, their opponents, 6 votes each.

John Cadman was re-elected representative for Lancaster county, and Joel Mason for the district of Lancaster, Seward, and Saunders counties.

The county officers elected were—Milton Langdon, clerk; Luke Lavender, probate judge; S. S. Snyder, county commissioner; Wm. Guy, treasurer; W. Ingram, coroner; J. S. Gregory, prosecuting attorney; and P. S. Schamp, surveyor.

June 2, 1866, an election was held under the state constitution, prepared by the territorial legislature of '65-'66, at which 165 votes were polled in the county, of which David Butler received 112 and J. Sterling Morton 53, for governor; for the constitution 95, against 53. John Cadman was elected senator to the first state legislature, which met July 4th. James Queen, of Lancaster, was returned elected as representative from Lancaster, Seward, and Saunders, and his seat was contested by his opponent, J. L. Davison, of Seward, and the contest was pending when the legislature adjourned, after an eight days' session. Ezra Tullis was elected representative from the county.

At the October election of the same year, pending the admission of Nebraska as a state, 199 votes were cast, of which T. M. Marquett, republican, received 129, and J. Sterling Morton, democrat, 69.

J. E. Doom, of Cass, was elected territorial councilman and state senator from Cass and Lancaster; E. L. Clark, of Seward, representative from Lancaster, Seward, and Saunders; and E. H. Hardenbergh, representative from Lancaster county to both United and state legislatures. Hardenbergh resigned at the close of the session of the territorial legislature, in March, 1867, and John Cadman was elected to fill the vacancy in the state legislature, which was called immediately after.

John W. Prey² was elected county commissioner in third district.

At the county election of 1867, held October 8th, 235 votes were cast.

The officers elected were—Silas Pratt, commissioner; John Cadman, probate judge; S. B. Galey, county clerk; J. H. Hawke, sheriff; M. Langdon, treasurer; Ezra Tullis, surveyor; F. A. Bidwell, school commissioner; and Emil Lange, coroner.

At the state election of 1868, held October 11th, 460 votes were cast. David Butler (Rep.) received 320, and J. R. Porter (Dem.) 123. C. H. Gere, of Lancaster, was elected senator for the district composed of Lancaster, Saline, Gage, Pawnee, and Jefferson counties; Ezra Tullis, representative from the county; W. R. Fields, county commissioner.

Seth Robinson, of Lancaster, was appointed attorney general by Governor Butler.

At the county election, October 10, 1869, 562 votes were cast, S.

B. Pound (Rep.), for probate judge, receiving 392; J. M. Bradford (Dem.), 170. Capt. R. A. Bain was elected clerk; John Cadman, treasurer; Sam. McClay, sheriff; M. Langdon, surveyor; Robert Faulkner and D. H. Sudduth, county commissioners; Allen M. Ghost, superintendent public instruction; Dr. D. W. Tingley, coroner.

At the state election, October 11, 1870, 1,116 votes were polled, David Butler (Rep.) receiving 798, Jno. H. Croxton, (Dem.) 318. Col. A. J. Cropsey, of Lancaster, was elected senator for the district, and S. B. Galey representative for the county.

An election was held May 2, 1871, for delegates to the constitutional convention, which met in June, and Seth Robinson and J. N. Cassell were elected to represent the county; Col. J. E. Philpot, of Lancaster, from the 11th senatorial district of Lancaster and Seward; and W. H. Curtis, of Pawnee, for the fourteenth representative district, composed of Lancaster, Saunders, Johnson, Pawnee, and Gage.

At the election on the new constitution, held September 19 of same year, 1,415 votes were cast—1,237 for the new constitution, and 178 against. The constitution was not adopted.

At the county election of October 10 of same year, 1,259 votes were cast. The officers elected were—J. D. Lottridge, county commissioner; A. L. Palmer, probate judge; R. O. Phillips, clerk; R. A. Bain, treasurer; A. M. Ghost, superintendent public instruction; J. T. Murphy, surveyor; and Dr. J. G. Fuller, coroner.

At the state election, October 8, 1872, 1,736 votes were polled, L. Crouse (Rep.) receiving 1,189, and J. L. Warner (Dem.) 535, for member of congress. S. B. Pound, of Lancaster, was elected senator for the eleventh district; S. G. Owen and A. K. White, representatives for the county; and M. H. Sessions, of Lancaster, representative for the fourteenth district. Henry Spellman was elected county commissioner; J. J. Gosper, of Lancaster, was elected secretary of state.

At the county election, October 14, 1873, 1,927 votes were polled. The officers elected were—J. Z. Briscoe, commissioner; A. L. Palmer, probate judge; R. O. Phillips, clerk; Chas. C. White, treasurer; Sam. McClay, sheriff; Dr. J. O. Carter, coroner; Tom I. Atwood, surveyor; J. W. Cassell, superintendent public instruction.

At the state election, October 13, 1874, 2,038 votes were polled, Silas Garber (Rep.) receiving 1,382; Albert Tuxbury (Dem.), 287; J. H. Gardner (Ind.), 170; and Jarvis S. Church (Prohib.), 139.

C. C. Burr, of Lancaster, was elected senator for the 11th district; Alfred G. Hastings and Louis Helmer, representatives for the county; and Thomas P. Chapman, of Saunders, for the 14th representative district.

Dr. H. D. Gilbert was elected county commissioner, and A. G. Scott, superintendent of public instruction to fill vacancy. On the question of a constitutional convention there were 1,069 ayes to 558 noes.

At the election for members of constitutional convention, held on the 6th of April, 1875, S. B. Pound and C. H. Gere, of Lincoln, C. W. Pierce, of Waverly, and J. B. Hawley, of Firth, were elected to represent the county.

At the state election under the proposed new constitution, and the county election, both occurring October 12, 1875, 2,360 votes were polled, S. B. Pound (Rep.), of Lancaster, receiving 1,533, and G. B. Scofield, of Otoe, 727, for judge of the second judicial district; Judge Pound was elected. The county officers elected were—W. E. Keys, county commissioner; A. G. Scott, county judge; Wm. A. Sharar, clerk; Charles C. White, treasurer; Sam. McClay, sheriff; Dr. A. C. Gibson, coroner; S. G. Lamb, superintendent public instruction; J. P. Walton, surveyor. For the new constitution, 2,119; against, 109. S. J. Tuttle, of Lancaster, was elected a regent of the university.

At the state election, November, 1876, 2,911 votes were polled, of which Silas Garber (Rep.), candidate for governor, received 1,947, Paren England (Dem.), of Lancaster, 712, and J. F. Gardner (greenback), 252. The senators elected from the county, which was now entitled to two, were Thos. P. Kennard, of Lincoln, and Cyrus N. Baird, of Oak Creek. The representatives elected were R. O. Phillips and W. C. Griffith, of Lincoln, and John Cadman, of Yankee Hill, and Henry Spellman, of Saltillo. J. N. Wilcox was elected commissioner.

At the county election of 1877 A. D. Burr was elected clerk; Louis Helmer, treasurer; J. S. Hoagland, sheriff; J. R. Webster, county judge; G. S. Lamb, superintendent public instruction; J. P. Walton, surveyor; E. T. Piper, coroner; H. D. Gilbert, commissioner; and C. W. Pierce, state senator to fill vacancy.

At the state election of 1878 Albinus Nance (Rep.), candidate for

governor, received 1,971 votes, W. H. Webster (Dem.), 433, and L. G. Todd (greenback), 409. Whole number of votes cast, 2,818. Amasa Cobb, of Lancaster, was elected a justice of the supreme court. M. B. Cheney and E. E. Brown were elected to the senate, and S. G. Owen, W. W. Carder, M. H. Sessions, and T. R. Burling, to the house. John McClay was elected commissioner.

At the county election, November, 1879, W. J. Weller was elected county commissioner; J. E. Philpot, judge; L. E. Cropsey, clerk; Louis Helmer, treasurer; Granville Ensign, sheriff; A. D. Burr, clerk district court; E. T. Piper, coroner; H. S. Bowers, superintendent public instruction; and J. P. Walton, surveyor. Amasa Cobb, of Lancaster, was re-elected justice of the supreme court for the full term. S. B. Pound, of Lancaster, was elected judge of the second judicial district for a second term.

At the state election of 1880, 4,778 votes were cast, of which Albinus Nance (Rep.) received 3,397, and T. W. Tipton (Dem.), 1,381. The senators elected were C. H. Gere and C. W. Pierce. Representatives, N. C. Abbott, C. O. Whedon, N. T. M'Clunn, and R. B. Graham. Commissioner, W. E. G. Caldwell.

At the county election of 1881 the following officers were chosen: Treasurer, R. B. Graham; clerk, John H. McClay; judge, C. M. Parker; commissioner, H. C. Reller; superintendent public instruction, H. S. Bowers; sheriff, Gran. Ensign; surveyor, J. P. Walton; coroner, A. J. Shaw.

At the state election of 1882, 4,818 votes were cast, of which James W. Dawes (Rep.) received 3,328, J. Sterling Morton (Dem.), 1,099, and E. P. Ingersoll (Anti-monop.), 391. Senators were E. E. Brown and P. H. Walker. Representatives, C. O. Whedon, A. W. Field, H. Wissenberg, J. W. Worl, M. H. Sessions, and M. H. Westcott. Commissioner, W. J. Miller. W. W. W. Jones, of Lancaster, was elected state superintendent of public instruction, and C. H. Gere, of Lancaster, a regent of the University.

At the county election of 1883, the officers elected were: R. B. Graham, treasurer; J. H. McClay, clerk; E. R. Sizer, clerk of district court; Sam. M. Melick, sheriff; C. M. Parker, judge; W. E. G. Caldwell, commissioner; H. S. Bowers, superintendent public instruction; J. J. Walton, surveyor; N. J. Beachley, coroner; Levi Snell, senate, to fill vacancy. S. B. Pound was elected to a third term from this county as judge of the second judicial district.

At the state and legislative election of 1884, the whole number of votes cast in the county was 6,401. Dawes (Rep.), for governor, received 4,012, Morton (Dem.), 2,180, and J. G. Miller, of Lancaster (Prohib.), 209. C. C. Burr and Alva Smith were elected senators, and S. W. Burnham, Wm. B. Brandt, H. J. Liesveldt, A. W. Field, and J. B. Wright to the house. Commissioner, H. C. Reller. Allen W. Field, of the Lancaster delegation, was, on taking his seat, elected speaker of the house.

At the county election of 1885, the following officers were chosen: Treasurer, Jacob Rocke; clerk, O. C. Bell; sheriff, S. M. Melick; judge, C. M. Parker; register of deeds, J. H. McClay; surveyor, J. P. Walton; coroner, E. T. Roberts; superintendent public instruction, Frank McCluskey; commissioner, Alva Brown. C. H. Gere, of Lancaster, was re-elected a regent of the University. Amasa Cobb, of Lancaster, was re-elected to the supreme bench.

At the state election of 1886, the whole number of votes cast was 6,834, of which John M. Thayer (Rep.) received, for governor, 3,985, James E. North (Dem.), 1,424, and H. W. Hardy, of Lancaster (Prohib.), 925. R. E. Moore and S. W. Burnham were elected to the senate, and J. L. Caldwell, J. Shamp, I. M. Raymond, J. Dickinson, H. J. Liesveldt, and G. W. Eggleston to the house. Commissioner, H. J. Shaberg.

At the county election of 1887, the following officers were chosen: Treasurer, Jacob Rocke; clerk, O. C. Bell; sheriff, S. M. Melick; judge, W. E. Stewart; register of deeds, John D. Knight; commissioner, Thos. Dickson; superintendent of public instruction, Frank McCluskey; surveyor, J. P. Walton; clerk of district court, E. R. Sizer. Allen W. Field, of Lancaster, was elected a judge of the second judicial district.

CHAPTER XIII.

TRIBUTES TO THE MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS AND FELLOW PIONEERS—

R. T. GALE, REV. J. M. YOUNG, DAVID IMLAY, SEN., MRS. J. F. DUNCAN, MRS. E. T. WALKER, MRS. ADALINE LINDSAY, MRS. MARY H. WALLICK, ABRAM COURTWRIGHT, MILTON LANGDON, MRS. ANNE LANGDON, REV. A. J. COMBS, STITES WOOLEY, WM. HAGEMAN, MRS. MARGARET BOYES, SAMUEL MANLEY, ROGER COOPER, MRS. MARY STANWOOD, MRS. E. D. DONALSON, MRS. E. W. BOUGHTON, WM. MORRIS, ROLAND REED, REV. J. E. MITCHELL, JASPER ROBERTS, STEPHEN PAYNE, REV. O. D. CONE, E. M. SPEAR, F. S. JOHNSON, WM. H. REED, REV. E. L. CLARK, MRS. L. M. BACHELDER, REV. ABRAM TOWNER, MRS. JANE SNODGRASS, MRS. AMOS COLEMAN, REV. T. N. SKINNER.

ROBERT T. GALE.

It pains us to be unable to learn anything of the early life of our departed friend. We first became acquainted with him at Nebraska City, in 1860. We had the pleasure of his acquaintance for seven years, or until his death in the early spring of 1867. We learned to appreciate him for his unusual intelligence and worthy Christian character. He was a member of the Missionary Baptist church. Was a surveyor by trade. Took up the first homestead in Seward county on the 2d day of January, 1863, which was the seventh in the South Platte land district. Made his residence in this county in the spring of 1864. Was elected justice of the peace in the following fall, and in 1865 was elected county surveyor, which office he held until his death.

He married Miss Amelia Wooley, daughter of Stites Wooley, of Seward, now deceased, in the spring of 1861. There were two children born to them, Miss Clara, now of Oregon, and the younger a son who died in infancy. Mr. Gale did much in the early days to help develop Seward county, and is remembered by all the older citizens with affectionate regard. His homestead comprised the land just east of the Presbyterian church in Seward. His funeral services were conducted by Rev. E. L. Clark, and his remains were followed to the grave by all the neighbors as mourners.

THE AUTHOR'S TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS DEAR FRIEND, REV.
J. M. YOUNG.

[From the *State Journal* of Feb. 27, 1884.]

Our hearts are very sad as we read in yesterday's *Journal* that our dear old friend, Elder Young, has passed away. Among the useful and good he was among the best. All that knew him well, loved him well. He was a worker in all useful fields. Where any good was to be accomplished no task was too hard for him.

He would face winter storms, camp out at night, or do anything to further the work his hands found to do. He was among the most enterprising, helping other people to help themselves. He loved to make money for the sole purpose of doing good with it. Place a mountain of gold at his door and he could not be rich while any one was in need or there was a laudable enterprise to help. The city of Lincoln owes its existence more to him than any other man living or dead. We say what we do know. Had it not been for him, there is no doubt that the capital of our state would have been placed elsewhere.

It was our good fortune to make his acquaintance in 1860 at Nebraska City, and in 1862 we were living at the salt basin, where the elder made his home with us when he first visited the land where your splendid city now stands. His company reached our place at noon on the Fourth of July, 1862. They expressed themselves glad to see us, and God knows we were glad to see them. We, that day, raised the stars and stripes to kiss the breeze for the first time in that new land, and we had a celebration. A celebration meant something in those dark days, when the war clouds hung like a pall over our land. As the Elder talked to us, we would cheer or cry when reference was made to the dear boys at the front, of their brave deeds, and their sufferings, and of our blessed flag that was being trailed in the dust by recreant hands. The company remained with us over Sabbath, and the Elder preached the first sermon in that vicinity. After viewing a wide extent of country, they located their colony on the site of your city, and dedicated a portion of section 22 for a town site and christened it Lancaster.

It was our pleasure to continue an intimate acquaintance with him for a number of years. While his colony was in its infancy he was the soul of it. His presence was an inspiration to all the struggling pioneers. Always ready with words of cheer and a little cash, when needed. He would always find some work for those willing to work. He would manage somehow to make work for them. His every day was full of good works. His noble Christian example (he lived the religion he professed) was valuable to all that knew him. Your beautiful city is to-day a monument to the memory of its founder and faithful friend.

IMLAY.

David Imlay (more especially known in Nebraska as Grandpa Imlay) was born Feb. 15, 1792, in Allegheny county, Penn. Miss Dorcas Johnson, his wife, was born at the same place. They were married in 1814, and removed to Muskingum county, Ohio, and resided in the woods nine years, and opened a farm. They then returned to the old home and took care of his aged parents while they lived, and at the end of nine more years they started westward, stopping in Muskingum county until 1841, when they pushed westward to Wabash county, Indiana. There were born to them twelve children, eight of whom are yet living, viz., Elizabeth, now Mrs. Spinks, of Harrison county, Iowa; Fannie J., now Mrs. Brady, of Wabash, Indiana; William, now of Seward; Sarah A., now Mrs. James A. Brown, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Solomon, of Dakota; David P., of Seward, and Joseph, of Dakota county, Nebraska. The old people followed their children to the West in 1856, and settled in Harrison county, Iowa, and in 1864 they settled upon a homestead two miles north-east of Seward, and there spent the remainder of their days. Grandmother Imlay died May 6, 1871, and Grandfather followed her to rest June 10, 1872.

They each united with the Presbyterian church in the days of their youth, and through all the chequered scenes of their long life they kept the faith to the end. It was our pleasure to have a familiar acquaintance with these good old people, and we are warranted in saying that Grandfather Imlay was one of the best Christian men that it has ever been our pleasure to meet.

They were laid to rest side by side in the Seward cemetery, and were mourned by their large family of children and a great number of grandchildren.

DUNCAN.

Miss Elizabeth Evans was born October 4, 1838, near Logansport, Ind. Was married to John F. Duncan in 1850, in Mercer county, Ill., where her parents had taken up their abode during her early childhood. Removed to Seward county and settled on a homestead in May, 1866. To her were born six children, only one, Mrs. Effie Manley, of Iowa, now survives. Three of the children were buried at Seward; a bright little girl (Mary) of eight years, a young son, Isaac, who bore sad affliction during his whole life, and a young infant. Her death occurred in the summer of 1872, and she was buried at Seward. Mrs. Duncan was a most noble woman, a faithful wife and loving mother, suffering and laboring in the midst of poverty with all meekness and earnestness of soul, and while she was denied the luxuries and many of the comforts of life, she labored on patiently and lovingly for her household. She united with the Missionary Baptist church in her early life. She possessed many of the Christian graces in a marked degree, and when her sweet life ebbed away all were sure that she had gone to dwell with her blessed Savior. She left a husband and two children to mourn her loss, one of which, the infant, soon followed her to the tomb.

ELSIE T. WALKER, WIFE OF DR. LELAND WALKER.

It becomes our sad duty to chronicle the death of another of Nebraska's brave pioneers, and one of our most efficient temperance heroines. She died at Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Feb. 14, 1886, while homeward bound from Hot Springs.

Elsie T. Cooper was born at Mount Vernon, Ohio, January 12, 1831. She was converted at the age of fourteen, and united with the Missionary Baptist church. Was married to Dr. Walker, Sept. 14, 1853. Five children were born to them, Homer A., now of Ord, Neb.; Ida E., now Mrs. Dr. Avery, of Ulysses, Neb.; Warren M., of Seward, and Elmer E., who followed his mother to the tomb during the last autumn. Their youngest, a daughter, died in infancy.

The family removed to Seward county the first of December, 1867, and located on a homestead three miles north-east of the present city. In the summer of 1868 their house was blown to pieces in a violent storm. Mrs. Walker and the children came near losing their lives. The Doctor concluded to rebuild their house in the embryo city, and here our friend has lived and labored with us for eighteen years. Hers was a life of remarkable labor. While she was physically frail, she had unbounded ambition, and was always among the foremost in all public enterprises and labors of love. With uncompromising fidelity to principle, she was generous to the faults of others. She was an active and working member of the church, was always ready to give battle to the rum traffic, was one of the leaders of the crusade in 1874, and one of the noble band of Christian mothers that form the W. C. T. U.

In her younger days she was a great help to the Doctor in his professional labors, especially among the poor. She was a frequent visitor to the abodes of suffering and poverty, and would carry sunshine. Many a time has she given freely of her means and of her strength and labor to restore the sick, and thus bless mankind. We rejoice that her good works will follow through the years to come. She was followed to her resting place by a host of old neighbors and friends. Rev. G. M. Morey, an old friend of the family, officiated. She sweetly sleeps in Seward cemetery.

LINDSEY.

Mrs. Adaline Lindsey was born a slave in Eastern Missouri. By dint of her own perseverance she learned to read and write, by stealth, with the assistance of white children. Was married to a Mr. Taylor at seventeen, and in 1856 her husband was sold and taken south. Years rolled on and she supposed her husband to be dead. She was again married to a Mr. Tate. She suffered slavery in its most cruel form, doing the hardest kind of drudgery and receiving most barbarous treatment. Once she was beaten and left for dead, and from this she never fully recovered. At the opening of the war she heard of some Union people living in a distant neighborhood. She made arrangements with them to furnish her with northern papers. They would place papers in the hollow of a certain tree, and she would borrow her master's horse at dead of night and ride six miles, get the papers, and then slyly read them to the slaves of her neighborhood. Imagine the rising hopes and fears of those slaves as the eloquent young woman would unfold to them the thrilling events of such vital importance to them.

In 1862 she made ready, and one dark, rainy night she saddled her master's best horse, with her mistress' sixty dollar saddle, and strapped her six year old boy to the saddle, and rode eighty miles before the next noon, through a drenching rain. She went fairly flying through the rebel pickets. Once she ran near a squad of boys in blue. They gave chase, but had hard work to convince her that they were friends, but finally succeeded. They were about to raid the village just ahead, and the captain said to her that they would ride through the town and for her to follow in their wake. On nearing the town, at the word of command a bold dash was made, and the boys went tearing and slashing through at a fearful rate, and our heroine made the best use of time and rushed her panting steed through the scene of carnage. She reached the city of Hannibal in safety, where her mother lived. The old woman had previously secured her freedom. With assistance of her mother she was secreted until night. The master arrived during the day. He found the horse, minus the saddle. His principal game he could not find. She owed her mistress a spite for an unmerciful whipping she had received for borrowing that saddle on a former occasion. A stone had been tied to the saddle and all was sunk in the river. She afterwards wrote her mistress to drain the "father of waters" and get her saddle. She crossed the river at night, and made her way to Galesburg with her boy.

In 1863 she united with the African M. E. church, where she became an honored and useful member, until she moved to Seward in 1874. After the war she was rejoined by her second husband, Mr. Tate, who accompanied her to Seward, where he died in 1880. In 1884 she was married to Mr. B. Lindsey, a very worthy colored man.

She became a leading member of the W. C. T. U., and was a most earnest Christian lady. She was a woman of rare intellectual abilities, and was honored by all who knew her. She rejoiced when her work was done, and was fully ready. She chose her own text: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord," and gave personal directions about the funeral and burial. She lies beside her former husband in Seward cemetery. She was followed to the tomb by a very large concourse of people, including a large delegation of the W. C. T. U. Her death occurred April 25, 1886.

WALLICK.

Mary H. Johnson was born Jan. 3, 1834, in Fulton county, Illinois. Was married to Abram Wallick, July 26, 1850. Moved to Iowa in 1853. Joined the Baptist church in 1858. Moved to Seward county in 1868, where she died in February, 1871.

Mrs. W. was the mother of thirteen children, as follows: Elizabeth V. Smith, now dead, Christian J., John F., Ellen, Abram M., Martha N., Elvira, Melville, Wallace, Mary L., Henry C., Ada, and Jane.

Mrs. Wallick is remembered by all the older settlers as a very worthy Christian lady, who went through great tribulation to her brighter home in the skies to receive her crown.

COURTRIGHT.

[Written by Edith M. France, of York, Neb.]

Abram Courtright, the oldest son of Elisha and Sarah Courtright, was born February 1, 1819, at Wilkesbarre, Luzerne Co., Pa.; in 1840 moved to Illinois, settling at Dixon, Lee county; the year 1847 entered the Mexican war, serving until its close; was married in 1849 to Miss S. H. Gaunt, of Dixon, Ill., there being born to them two children, a son and daughter—Elisha Courtright, resident of Milford, Seward county, and Edith M. Courtright (Mrs. Geo. B. France,) of York, York county, Neb. In 1863 Mr. Courtright decided to move West, and in the fall with his family came to Nebraska, settling at that time in Cass county, buying a farm, remaining in this county until 1866; moving at that time to Seward county, improving the opportunity of the homestead law, and locating four miles east of Milford. He spent the remainder of his life cultivating and improving his farm, and on January 25, 1882, after a short illness, there passed from this life to a life beyond, a kind and loving husband, an indulgent father, a true friend, and loyal republican. In 1846 he became a charter member of the brotherhood of the A. F. and A. M., remaining a staunch member all his life. Having traveled all over the United States, he always said, "All things considered, I think Nebraska the finest state in the Union." Having been an early settler he ever felt a great interest in the development of the state and especially the county in which he lived. At his fireside the stranger and the early settler could always find shelter and a hearty welcome.

LANGDON.

Milton Langdon was born in Sugar Grove, Warren county, Penn., on the 28th of April, 1823; removed in an early day to Janesville, Wisconsin, where he married Miss Anna Mitchel, on the 26th of April, 1848; here their four children were born, viz., Andrew, now of Lincoln, Neb.; Carrie, now Mrs. Hugh Hunter, of Seward;

Kate, now Mrs. Melick, wife of Sheriff Melick, of Lincoln, and John M., now of Seward. In the early spring of 1853, they removed with their young family to Richland Centre, Wis., and there remained until the spring of 1858, when he took the western fever and loaded up his worldly goods and family and traveled all the weary way with an ox team to Civil Bend, in Fremont county, Iowa. He took up his abode at the salt basins in May, 1862. The writer had met him several times during the fall and early winter of 1861 and 1862. He was engaged in the manufacture of salt for three seasons. He was at one time a partner in business with us. He continued his residence in that locality until the founding of Lincoln, when he took up his residence in the city; was elected treasurer of Lancaster county in 1868, and held the office two terms; removed to the Oak Groves in Seward county, in 1872, and was engaged in the manufacture of lime and brick, and invented a novel and valuable brick kiln, in which straw and hay could be used for burning brick with very little cost. Mr. Langdon was a man of much more than ordinary intelligence. We used to call him a walking encyclopedia in all historical matters. He was a genial companion, a good neighbor, wide awake and full of energy. His death occurred in December, 1880, and he was buried at Oak Grove cemetery.

MRS. ANNE LANGDON.

[From the *State Journal*. Contributed by W. W. Cox.]

The subject of this sketch was born April 26, 1821, in Bucks county, Pa.; died in Seward, Neb., July 16, 1884. She removed at an early age to Rochester, N. Y., and while yet young to Janesville, Wisconsin, where she was married to Milton Langdon, in 1848. [The reader is referred to the biography of Mr. Langdon for many particulars.] After the death of her husband, she lived with the children. She kept house for her son John, at Seward, until prostrate with her sickness, when she was kindly cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Hugh Hunter. Deceased joined the Congregational church in her youth, and her life has been that of an every-day Christian. Her noble self-sacrificing labor through the many years of her pioneer life are to be remembered by all who knew her. She was the light and joy of the home and the community. She was loved and honored by all. In hours of prosperity or deep adversity, she was ever the same kind, affectionate lady, with words of counsel for the erring, with words of sympathy when needed, and works of charity among the suffering. Hers was a beautiful life, full of the Christian graces. Her crown will be thickly set with precious gems. With work all well done, she was ready to depart and dwell with her Savior, whom she had loved, faithfully served, and confidently trusted. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. T. L. Sexton. She was laid to rest beside her husband in Oak Grove cemetery. Peaceful be her rest in the arms of her Blessed Master.

REV. A. J. COMBS

Was born in Indiana, November 12, 1845; was converted and united with the M. E. church in 1865; was married to Miss Mary Robinson in 1869. He was an earnest and eloquent preacher, and was honored and loved by all that knew him. His death occurred at David City, in 1879, and he was the same year followed to the tomb by his young wife, and three little orphan boys were left to mourn their loss

WOOLEY.

Stites Wooley was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, June 6, 1807, and died at Seward, Neb., December 10, 1887, being eighty years, six months, and three days old. In 1839 he was married to Miss M. Stevenson, who survives him. In 1841 they removed to Cincinnati, where he worked at his trade (a brick mason), and in 1856 the family settled at Nebraska City, remaining until their settlement at Seward, in 1866, where they improved a homestead on Sec. 15, "G" precinct, for many years, when he sold the farm and moved into the city, and there resided in his old age. There were eight children born to them. The two oldest died at Cincinnati, and the two youngest at Nebraska City. Their only daughter, Amelia, now Mrs. Ross, resides at Albina, Oregon. Fred is at Seward, and Oliver and Henry are in the West. Father Wooley was highly respected, was an honorable and upright citizen, and a consistent Christian. United with the Presbyterian church during his early manhood. Funeral was held at the Presbyterian church, Rev. Chestnut, the pastor, officiating. He was buried in Seward cemetery.

HAGEMAN.

William Hageman was born November 6, 1805, in Somerset county, New Jersey; was married at his native place to Miss Nettie A. Quickstriker. To them six children were born, viz., Maria, now Mrs. M. Young, of Raritan, Ills.; John S., now dead; G. Vandvere, now of Milford, Neb.; Jane N., now dead; Abraham V., of Seward, and Miss J. A., now the wife of Gus. Brokaw, of Ruby, Neb. The family removed to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1839, where he buried his wife, January 19, 1850. In the year following, he returned to New Jersey, and married Mrs. M. V. Skillman, a young widow, and the sister of his former wife. He brought her to the Fulton county home, where were born to them, Miss Helen V., now Mrs. F. Garner, of Ruby, Neb.; Chris. S. and Simon P., now of Seward, and Wm. W., now of Lincoln county, Nebraska. He removed to Seward county and settled on a homestead four miles south of Seward in the spring of 1866, where he lived until 1880, when he made his residence in the city of Seward, residing there until his death, which occurred November 15, 1882, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Hageman united with the Dutch Reformed church in his early life, and was an exemplary Christian through all the changeful scenes of a long life. His aged widow, a large family of children and grandchildren, together with a host of friends, mourn his loss. He was buried in the Hageman cemetery, near Ruby station.

BOYES.

Margaret Broadhead was born in Bethany, Indiana, June 15, 1842. Removed with her parents to Story county, Iowa, in 1855. Married Geo. W. Boyes in April, 1857. To them were born four children, all yet living: Manuel, now of Wray, Colo.; Alice, now Mrs. Underhill, of Utica, Nebraska; and a pair of twins Harvey and Harris, now of Ruby, Nebraska. The family moved to Seward in 1868, where her husband built a saw-mill, and resided at Seward until February, 1869, when they returned to Story county, Iowa, where she died June 29, 1869. We well remember the subject of this sketch as a very amiable lady. She was an invalid and suffered greatly, yet patiently. She was beloved by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. She was buried in Story county, and mourned by her husband and four young children.

MANLEY.

Samuel Manley was born in Humelstown, Penn., May 21, 1836, and died at Ulysses, Nebraska, July 31, 1877. Mr. Manley lived at the old home until he was eighteen, when he, with his parents, removed to Muscatine, Iowa, where he learned the carpenter's trade. Married Miss Harriet Cromer in 1862. There were born to them Frankie, now Mrs. Frankie Roberts, of Colorado, and Iba, now dead. The young people removed to Seward county in the fall of 1868, and settled upon a homestead three miles north-west of Seward. In the summer of 1870 he burnt the first kiln of brick in the county, shortly after which he built the first brick house of the county, and also built the first brick structure in the city (the old *Reporter* office, on Jackson avenue). He also built two small frame buildings on the corner where Goehner's hardware now stands, in one of which he opened a grocery store, and Mr. Humphrey opened a drug store during the winter of 1868. There were born to them three children, Samuel, now with his mother at Seward, Ruth and Luther, both now dead. Mr. Manley was twice elected county commissioner for Seward county. Was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and attained the high degree of Knight Templar. Mr. Manley was a very active business-man, and did much toward the development of the county. Was killed while examining an excavation for a mill flume at Ulysses, Neb., where he was engaged in building a mill. Was buried in Seward cemetery, under the auspices of the Knights Templar. He left a widow and four children, two of whom soon followed him to the tomb. A fine monument to his memory was erected by his widow.

ROGER COOPER

Was born August 1, 1800, in Vermont; was married to Sarah W. Babcock, July 5, 1826, in Salem, Washington county, New York. The family moved to Knox county, Ohio, in 1829; from thence to Carroll county, Ill., in 1856, and to Jones county, Iowa, in 1857. They settled on section 12, in G precinct, Seward county, Nebraska, in October, 1866. There were born to them, Mary C., June 16, 1827, now dead; Wm. H., at one time a resident of Seward county, now a resident of Grant county, Wis.; Elsie T., the wife of Dr. L. Walker, now dead, born Jan. 12, 1831; Lucretia, born Dec. 6, 1833, now dead; Leonard, born June 19, 1835, now dead; Hannah E., born Sept. 11, 1836, now of Fremont county, Iowa; Edward, born March 24, 1839, now of Ulysses, Neb.; Isaac M., born March 22, 1841, now dead; Clark R., born May 19, 1843, now dead; Sarah, born March 13, 1846, now dead; J. K., born April 24, 1848, now of Ortello, Custer county, Neb. Mr. Cooper was a man of remarkable vigor, even in his old age. His death occurred at Ulysses, where the old people were living with their son Edward, on June 2, 1885, being 84 years, 10 months, and 2 days old. He leaves his aged widow and his remaining children and a great host of grandchildren to mourn his loss. Mr. Cooper was a member of the M. E. church. He was buried at Seward.

STANWOOD.

Mrs. Mary, daughter of David and Dorcas Imlay, was born in 1820, in Muskingum county, Ohio. Was married to James McFadden in 1848, at Wabash, Indiana. Removed to Calhoun, Iowa, in 1856, where she buried her husband in 1857. She was at this time the mother of six children, viz., Henry, now of Holt county, Neb.;

Lydia, now Mrs. Hoops, of Staplehurst, Neb.; James W. and Marcus, both of Omaha; Mary, now Mrs. Hecoeks, of Seward; and Dethula, now Mrs. Nelson, of Montana. She married Sabin Stanwood in 1860, in Harrison county, Iowa, and to them were born Andrew and Joseph, now of Seward. They settled in Seward county, on a homestead three miles north-east of Seward, in 1867, where she died in 1874. She united with the Presbyterian church in early life, and died in the triumph of a living faith, and mourned by a large family and a host of friends.

DONALSON.

Elizabeth Denning Donalson, mother of Mrs. Wm. Imlay, of Seward, was born June 12, 1797, at West Union, Ohio. Was married at the age of twenty-seven to Wm. Donalson, and became the mother of six children, four of whom are now dead, viz., Job, John H., Rebecca E., and Samuel A., leaving but Mrs. Sarah Fowler, of Windsor, Mo., and Mrs. Mary E. Imlay, of Seward. In 1826 the family moved to the wilds of Indiana, and hewed out for themselves a home in Decatur county, residing there about ten years, when they moved to Wabash, where she buried her husband. She, by industry and frugality, managed to keep the family together until the two surviving sisters were grown and married. She resided at Wabash until 1875, when she followed her daughters to the West. She sojourned at Windsor for six months, when she made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Imlay until her death, which occurred Dec. 23, 1879. She suffered great affliction during the last months of her life from a fall she received. She united with the Presbyterian church in her early youth, and served her Master faithfully through her long and eventful life. She was buried in Seward cemetery.

BOUGHTON.

Eliza W. Bent was born in Sterling, Cayuga county, New York, May 22, 1815. On October 3, 1839, she was married to Rev. Newell Boughton, a minister of the Baptist church. For fifteen years she ably assisted him in his ministrations in the various churches of which he had pastoral charge. Mr. Boughton's health failing, he thought a change of labor would be beneficial, and accordingly settled on a farm near Baraboo, Wisconsin. There Mr. Boughton died Oct. 6, 1854, and there the widow continued to reside until the fall of 1876, when she removed to Seward, where she resided until her death.

In November, 1878, she was afflicted with a stroke of paralysis from which she partially recovered, and a second stroke prostrated her in January, 1882. From the latter she never recovered, and during the five years after its occurrence she was almost unable to walk, and was confined to the house much of the time. During this time her strength rapidly failed, and during the last three years she was incapable of taking any care of herself. Her only daughter, who had never been separated from her mother, took care of her during this period with great devotion. On Monday, July 4th, she was attacked with severe bowel troubles, and took to bed. All that medical skill and loving care could do for her was done, but to no avail. The severe heat of the weather and her extreme weakness combined to make the disease irresistible, and she quietly passed away on Saturday, July 9, 1887, aged seventy-two years. Throughout the years of her invalid life she had suffered little pain, and her last sickness and death were unattended by suffering. Paralysis had so deadened the nerves that sensation was weak, and

consequently no pain was felt. When very young Mrs. Boughton became a Christian, and united with the Presbyterian church at the age of fourteen. After her marriage to a Baptist clergyman she transferred her membership to that church, and remained a faithful and consistent member of that denomination all her life. Though in her later years deprived of the privilege of attending divine service, she never lost her interest in religion, nor her faith in God. Only a few hours before losing consciousness she expressed her entire confidence in Christ, and her belief that she was about to be taken to a better world, where she would be reunited to her husband, to whose memory she had been faithful during the thirty-three years of her widowhood. Mrs. Boughton was the mother of seven children, of whom three survive her, Clarence E. Boughton, of Baraboo, Wisconsin; Augustus S. Boughton, of Indianola, Neb., and Mrs. F. G. Simmons, of Seward, Neb. Funeral services were held at the Baptist church, conducted by Rev. J. N. Webb, who was an old friend and co-worker with Mr. Boughton, from the text, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

MORRIS.

At his home in Seward, Neb., Wednesday morning, at 9 A.M., July 28, 1880, of cancerous affections, William Morris, aged 46 years. Mr. Morris was born in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1834, residing there until he was about eight years old, after which his parents removed to Tuscarawas county, Ohio. Up to 16 years of age he attended public school, when he was apprenticed to a blacksmith to learn that trade; working at this business until the breaking out of the war, he enlisted in the 145th Illinois infantry and served nine months, seeing military service in Missouri. While in the army he contracted chronic diarrhea, from which he never entirely recovered. On leaving the army he engaged in the hardware business at Elkhart, Ill., with his brother John H. Morris, in which they continued for two years. Since that time William and J. H. Morris have been engaged for short times in other mercantile pursuits, but devoted most of their time to inventions. Morris' reverse buckle for harness was produced by them, and is now principally used in the construction of harness, and other valuable inventions, including the "Delusion" and "15th Amendment" mouse traps; and another valuable invention which they were on the eve of manufacturing at Seward. He was married in Ford county, Ill., in 1867 to Miss Eliza J. Higdon, and the fruits of their marriage are a son and daughter, six and eleven years old respectively. In the fall of 1874 he removed to Seward, Neb., with his brother John and families. Last June a form of cancerous or hard malignant tumor appeared on his left arm, which necessitated the amputation of the arm, but this proved of no avail, and after long and patient suffering he died. Mr. Morris' inventive genius was of the highest practical order.

ROLAND REED.

The subject of this sketch was born at Bainbridge, New York, in 1819, and there he lived until his majority, when he pushed out to Tioga Co., Penn., and made his home at the town of Shipping, where he remained five years, and married Miss Jane Wetherbee, at the age of twenty-three. He changed his place of residence to Delmer in the same county, and there remained until he moved to Seward county in 1866. He located on a homestead two miles west of Beaver

Crossing, where he spent the remainder of his days. There were born to him nine children. He was a stalwart republican in politics. His religious sentiments were Presbyterian, although he never united with the church. He left a widow and family to mourn his loss. Was buried in the Beaver Crossing cemetery on the ninth day of February, 1884.

MITCHEL.

James Emery Mitchel was born in McDonough county, Ills., Sept. 4, 1854; resided in that county until five years ago, when he made his residence in Seward. He entered the ministry in 1882, and was stationed at Germantown, where he resided until his death. Was married Feb. 22, 1879, to Miss Sarah E. Dunahugh, and to them were born four children, three boys and one girl, all of whom are with their mother. Mr. Mitchel suffered greatly for several years from a honey-comb enlargement of his leg. He found it necessary to have the leg amputated in the winter of 1883, and then the case became more and more aggravated, causing tumors, and affected his lungs, finally caused his death, which occurred Nov. 22, 1886. He was buried in Seward cemetery, and left his widow, four little children, and a wide circle of friends to mourn his loss. Mr. Mitchel was a very zealous Christian worker. While his sufferings were terrible, yet he remained cheerful and seemed always to rejoice in a bright hope. He was cut down in his early manhood, but he earned the gracious favor of the Master, and died triumphantly.

JASPER ROBERTS

Was born March 24, 1849, in Fulton county, Ill., and died at Seward, Oct. 15, 1884, from a wound received while examining a revolver, which was accidentally discharged. Mr. Roberts came to Nebraska with his parents in the spring of 1866. He resided with the old people until he was of age, when he took a homestead near the present town of Staplehurst. Was married to Miss Mattie E. Davis, daughter of Hon. W. R. Davis, June 25, 1871. There were born to them five children, two of whom live and are with their mother, Claudius and Ralph, two bright boys. Shortly after the sad death of the father, the oldest living child, a boy of ten years (Wilber), was accidentally killed by the wreck of a building in a heavy wind storm. Mr. Roberts moved to Ulysses in 1880, and run a meat market, then he dealt in stock and grain, and afterwards he started a grocery store which he continued to manage to the time of his death. Mr. Roberts was a very successful and popular business-man, and his loss was sorely felt by the community in which he lived. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and great numbers of his beloved order followed him to the tomb. He left a wife, three children, and a wide circle of relatives and friends to mourn his untimely death. His last expressions as he neared the dark river were that he was ready to go, and his only regrets were to leave the family and friends. Rev. Selby, of David City, officiated at the burial.

PAYNE.

Steven Payne was born in the state of New York, July 11, 1811. He early in life united with the Missionary Baptist church, and although never ordained as a minister, he for many years held a license to do work in that line. His course has always been open, frank, and sincere. Whatever he believed to be right that he

did with all his might, regardless of what others thought or did. For a long time he had been in poor health, and for some weeks had been confined to his bed, and after much suffering quietly passed away, honored and respected by all for his many good traits of character. Father Payne settled at Seward in 187— His death occurred Nov. 23, 1887, and he was buried Nov. 26th, Rev. J. N. Webb officiating at the funeral.

REV. O. D. CONE

Was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, April 16, 1842. His father, Rev. Edwin Cone, was a local preacher in the Western Reserve conference of the church of the United Brethren in Christ. At an early age he was converted, and joined the church of his father. His boyhood and youth were not altogether devoid of hardships, but they were well calculated to develop the symmetrical and self-reliant character for which he was noted in the years of his vigorous manhood. Oct. 9, 1861, he was married to Miss Sallie H. Citerley, in Lake county, Ohio. Three children, one girl and two boys, blessed this union. A few years later he felt that he was called of God to preach the gospel. Ever ready to respond to the call of duty, he connected himself with the Western Reserve conference about 1871, and at once entered the active work of the ministry. Eight years he traveled in this conference, his last circuit being Richfield, Summit county, Ohio, on which he labored three years. These were years of abundant prosperity for the church, and Rev. Cone earned for himself a reputation subordinate perhaps to that of but few of his co-laborers. In the fall of 1879 he moved his family to Nebraska, buying a farm one-half mile from Unadilla, Otoe county. He at once joined the East Nebraska annual conference, and the following spring was appointed to Unadilla circuit. Here he remained two years, during which time a commodious house of worship was built in Unadilla. At the annual conference in the spring of 1882, he was elected one of the presiding elders. In this capacity he was as successful as before, and won the esteem of not only the people with whom he came in contact, but of the ministers under his charge as well. At the expiration of the year he was appointed to Seward station, where he served the people one year with general satisfaction. Feeling that the general state of his health required him to take a short rest, in the spring of 1884 he located for one year, but in August he accepted the position of general soliciting agent for Western College, Toledo, Iowa, in which he worked during the fall and winter, doing good service for the educational interests of the church. At the meeting of the annual conference, in March, 1885, a lengthy petition from the people of Seward station was presented, asking that their former pastor be returned to them for the ensuing year. Conference complied, and Rev. Cone, feeling that his duty lay in the active work of the ministry, yielded to the call of the church, and again became the pastor at Seward. May 31st, while preaching one of the most powerful sermons of his life, he was taken sick in the pulpit, and was carried from the church to the house of Bro. George Slonecker. By June 8th he was able to return to his home at Unadilla. On Saturday, the 13th, he was stricken with paralysis of the lower limbs, and on Sunday evening, with the setting of the sun, he peacefully and triumphantly passed the boundaries of mortal existence, and entered that heaven whose beauties and glories he had so often and so eloquently portrayed to his delighted hearers.

EDGAR M. SPEAR

Was born in Webster, Monroe county, N. Y., June 7, 1840. Served in the war of the rebellion under Commodore Farragut, and was on the gunboat Sciota, at Mobile, when it was blown up. Came to Seward in March, 1872, and planted a nursery. Died Dec. 20, 1880. We are sorry that we can give no further account of a life so eventful as his must have been. Mr. Spear is remembered as a very worthy citizen.

FREDERICK S. JOHNSON,

Senior member of the firm of F. S. Johnson & Co., proprietors of Quenchaqua flouring mills, and bankers at Milford. The subject of this sketch came to Milford, Nebraska, in March, 1880, and, in company with James F. Johnson and H. D. Perry, purchased an interest in the above flouring mills from the original proprietor, J. L. Davison. In the following August the firm of Johnson, Perry & Co. bought out the other partners, and the mill was operated by them until the death of Mr. Perry, which occurred December 22, 1881, since that time the firm being F. S. Johnson & Co., consisting of F. S. Johnson and James F. Johnson. The mill is a brick and frame building, four stories high, 36x46. It is run by water power, with a fall of fourteen feet and 150 horse power. Since April, 1881, have been turning out 260 barrels of flour per day. They use steel rollers instead of buhrs for the manufacture of flour, and have nine sets of these rollers, which only require dressing once in five years. They are very much superior to the old style of milling, and produce better results, as 100 pounds of this flour is equal to 122 pounds ground by buhrs. The "Shogo" flour took the first premium at the Nebraska State Fair for the best spring wheat made in the state, and the bread from this flour also took the premium. The names "Shogo" and "Quenchaqua," stamped on these sacks, excited considerable curiosity at the exhibition, as everyone wished to know the meaning of them. They are Aztec words, "Shogo" the brand of flour, meaning the very best, and "Ineuchaqua," the name of the mills, meaning number one. The subject of this sketch was born in Oswego, N. Y., September 15, 1856, and received his literary education at Union college, Schenectady, N. Y.

WILLIAM H. REED

Was born in Hartford county, Connecticut, in 1810. Our record of his younger years is very meager. Lost his first wife in Ohio, and was there married a second time. Lost the second wife in Washington county, Iowa. Married Mrs. Watson in 1857, who still survives him, and now resides at Weeping Water, in Cass county, Nebraska. Mr. Reed came to Weeping Water Falls in 1861, and built a grist-mill, which was the second one in Cass county. In 1866 he moved the old mill to Milford, and built a fine stone mill at the Falls in its place. Mr. Reed was a partner with Mr. Davison in Milford, and he helped start the town. He took a lively interest in all public matters, was always wide-awake and in earnest with regard to the development of the county and his town. Was elected county clerk in the fall of 1867, and had a very important part in the county seat contest. Mr. Reed will be remembered as a man of *will* power; was very determined and energetic in all his undertakings.

While he lived at Milford he was the leader in all her enterprises, and foremost in all her battles with her rivals. He always fought to win, but stern fate seemed

to be against him in the contest, and when the battle was lost irretrievably the blow was so crushing that the old gentleman could hardly endure to remain in the county, so he spent his last days at Weeping Water, where he had large interests. Mr. Reed was a kind-hearted, genial man. We would take it that he was an excellent neighbor and a good business-man. While it was the province of the writer of this sketch to often cross swords with Mr. Reed in the struggles of the past, yet we always admired his untiring energy and determination to win or die in the last ditch. We always found him a pleasant man in his every-day life, and one with many traits of character to admire. His life was active, and he acted well his part in the development of Nebraska. When he had outlived his three score and ten years he died, at the good old age of seventy-three, at Weeping Water, Nebraska, and leaves an aged widow, a large family, and a wide circle of friends and acquaintances to mourn his loss.

REV. E. L. CLARK

Was born in 1810, in Addison Co., Vt. His father died just before his birth, and the lad was raised by a stepfather. Was raised on a farm, and went to school in Addison until he was of age, when he began studying for the ministry with a Baptist clergyman. Married Miss Nancy Munger in 1831, at Whiting. Miss Munger was born in 1812, at Whiting, Vt. Commenced his ministry at Troy in the Baptist church. Preached at various places in Vermont until 1851, when his health failed, and he moved to the Adirondack country in New York, and opened a farm in the wilderness. Some time afterwards the family took up their residence at East Constable, N. Y., and remained there until they removed to Seward county in 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Clark raised eleven children, six boys and five girls. Mr. Clark was the first resident minister of the county, and preached the second sermon in the neighborhood of Seward, in the fall of 1865. The family had many hardships to undergo in the early days, but he was a faithful worker and did very much in moulding the moral and religious sentiment of this new country. Organized the first Baptist church, in 1870, at Seward, and remained its faithful pastor until his health entirely failed, in the winter of 1872 and 1873. He died in the spring of 1873, and was followed to the tomb by a sorrowing people. His wife died in 1875 and was buried by his side.

BATCHELDER.

Louisa M. Whitwood was born near Ithaca, N. Y., April 17, 1831. In about 1846 her father's family moved to Rockford, Ills., where she was married to J. W. Batchelder, by Rev. H. M. Goodwin, Feb. 18, 1852. The family moved to Seward county in 1870, and settled in "B" precinct, where Mr. Batchelder still resides. To Mr. and Mrs. Batchelder were born five children, as follows: Wm. H., born in Rockford, Sept. 18, 1855; he now resides at Hoxie, Sheridan Co., Kansas; Flora I., born at Rockford, Feb. 8, 1858; died of scarlet fever April 18, 1860; Whitwood J., born at Rockford, March 10, 1861; resides now at "B;" Frank C., born at Burrill, Ill., Dec. 5, 1864; now resides at Grant, Keith Co., Neb.; Edward G., born March 11, 1867, and still resides with his father. The deceased was for many years an exemplary member of the Congregational church, and at the time of her death she was a member of the Presbyterian church. She cheerfully bore the trials and privations of a frontier life. The kindness of her disposition and her readiness to as-

sist in alleviating sorrow of others won for her the love of all who knew her. She truly in the spirit of her Master went about doing good. She died triumphantly when her work was well done, and left her husband, children, and a wide circle of friends to mourn her loss.

REV. ABRAM TOWNER.

Born June 13, 1806, in Bradford Co., Pa. Married Miss Hester Vought, of his native place, Jan. 1, 1826. Moved to Ohio in 1829, to Missouri in 1832. Was licensed to preach in the M. E. church in 1844. Settled in Cass Co., Neb., in 1854, when he preached the first sermon ever delivered in Cass county. His wife died Feb. 7, 1866, at Rock Bluffs, in Cass county. The old gentleman moved to Butler county in 1867, and had the honor of naming Ulysses. Since that date has several times visited California, where he married a second wife, who lived but a short time. Since that time he has made his home with his sons, Abram and Mc. D., at Ulysses, and with his daughter, Mrs. Tishue, of Seward. There are six children living, viz., Achatias, of Washington Territory; Abram, of Ulysses; Emily, now Mrs. L. Patterson, of Kansas; Mc. D., of Ulysses; Susan, now Mrs. S. C. Cutter, of Rapid City, Dak.; Lucy, now Mrs. William Gilmour, of Plattsmouth, Neb., and Rannie, now Mrs. J. Tishue, of Seward. Mr. Towner lived a faithful Christian and died in the triumphant faith of a blessed immortality. His death occurred Aug. 29, 1886, at Ulysses, Neb.

MRS. JANE SNODGRASS,

The mother of Rev. E. W. Johnson, was born Aug. 4, 1812, in North Carolina. She was the daughter of Elijah Wilcoxsen. When she was eighteen her parents moved to Kentucky, from thence to Fulton county, Ill., and located near the present town of Lewiston. Here she married Moses C. Johnson, in 1831. In 1851 her husband was killed by a runaway team. She was the mother of nine children, two sons and seven daughters. Among these children were Rev. E. W. Johnson, Mrs. Abram Wallich, now deceased, and Mrs. Thomas Skillman. In 1853 she was again married to Mr. James Snodgrass, and by him had one daughter. The old lady died at Seward, Oct. 16, 1874. Her death was caused by injuries received from a fall from the car steps at Seward depot one dark night. She suffered much pain for several months from the injuries. When death came to her relief it found her ready, and she quietly fell asleep in the arms of her Savior.

MRS. AMOS COLEMAN.

Mary C. Poisal was born in Fairfield Co., Ohio, June 13, 1839. She removed with her father's family to Iowa in an early day, and to Cass Co., Nebraska, in 1864, where she engaged in teaching until her marriage to Amos Coleman in 1867, July 30th. She was the mother of seven children, all boys, the oldest nineteen and the youngest three years. Mrs. Coleman was converted at the tender age of thirteen, and lived a consistent and earnest Christian life. Her home was with the M. E. church, of which she was a valuable member. The family, consisting of her husband and one child, settled on their homestead in "B" precinct in the early spring of 1870, and they had their full share in the labors and trials of the new settlement. She has been in poor health for near three years, her disease being a cancer of the breast. While a great sufferer she has been very patient and

cheerful. Her chief concern was that her husband and children should join her in the better world. Her death occurred March 26, 1888. She is mourned by the family and a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

REV. THOMAS N. SKINNER

Was born in St. Lawrence county, Vermont, and was educated at Potsdam College. At the age of twenty years he was converted to Christ. A few years later he was married to Miss Ocha L. Bell, and emigrated from his native state to Illinois, where he commenced his ministerial work. At the age of thirty he removed to Iowa, still continuing his chosen labor. In 1867 he was sent to Milford in this county, to take charge of the Congregational church there and remained its pastor for several years. In 1873 his wife died, leaving a family of five children. On the 27th of March, 1877, he was married to Miss Nancy A. Dugan, who still survives him. Later he removed to the north-western part of this state, where he continued his labor of establishing churches and Christian institutions, faithfully laboring for the salvation of sinners until his health became so impaired from overwork and exposure in that new and sparsely settled country, that he was obliged to retire from his field of labor, and he returned to this county in hopes of regaining health to continue the work in the Master's fold. His constitution had been overtaxed and he never regained his old-time vigor. At every opportunity he was at his post, preaching and warning sinners to repentance, feeling that he had a call from God to fight the good fight until he was called home to the Master he served so faithfully on earth. He leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his loss. The five children by his first wife are all grown, and he has two little girls as the fruits of the second union.

CHAPTER XIV.

MEN WHO HAVE ACTED WELL THEIR PART IN DEVELOPING THE COUNTY, AND WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY UNTIRING EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF HER INTEREST AND ADVANCEMENT.

LEWIS ANDERSON

Was born in Bedford Co., Pa., April 15, 1833. Married to Miss Sarah A. Edwards, of Huntington Co., Pa., April 7, 1853. Moved to Fulton Co., Ill., in 1864, and to Seward county in the spring of 1866, and made settlement on his present farm. There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson seven children, four of whom are now dead, viz., Edson and Lewis died while very young; Susan, who became the wife of Norman A. Smith, died in 1880; and Wilson, who had been a cripple for many years, died in the spring of 1887. Those living are Lizzie, now Mrs. John Metz; Clara, now Mrs. E. A. Butler, of Ansley, Neb.; and Bell, yet with her parents. Mr. Anderson joined the I. O. O. F. the day he was twenty-one, and takes great interest in the Order. Is a working member of the U. B. church and is among our most highly respected citizens.

G. BABSON, JR.,

Is our oddity. As a business-man he has no superiors. He is especially gifted with the knack of being everywhere present. He is ever on the fly, and always up to his eyes in business. Runs the leading implement business of the county, is manager of the Morris Lock Company, and has a leading hand in the canning factory, and also the electric light company. Always to the front in all public enterprise, and free with his money in every laudable undertaking. Mr. Babson is a native of Massachusetts, where he received a thorough education. Has taken an active interest in the public schools of our city, and was for many years a member of our board of education. Has a bright, intelligent family. With all his oddities, we could wish we had many more like him. Mr. Babson's wife died during the early spring, and thus leaves the home of our friend desolate and his young family without a mother.

JOHN W. BATCHELDER

Was born in Sullivan Co., N. H., in 1828. When he was but ten years old his father's family moved to Winnebago Co., Ill., near Rockford, where he continued his residence for thirty-two years. Married in 1852 to Miss Louisa M. Whitwood. To them were born five children, four of whom yet live. Mr. Batchelder moved to Seward county in 1870, and located in "B" precinct, where he still resides. His wife died in 1878, and in 1885 he married Mrs. Mary J. York. Mr. B. is a member of the United Brethren church, and one of its leading members in this county. He has improved his farm in a very creditable manner, and has a very fine orchard of the various fruits.

JAMES H. BETZER

May justly be considered the veteran newspaper man of Seward county. He is the oldest man that is now an editor, and has been at the helm running the *Blade* longer than any of his contemporaries, and has been in the newspaper business when all others of the craft here were young lads. Twenty-two years he has edited and published a newspaper, eight years at Seward. Mr. Betzer is an uncompromising republican, and fights the party battles manfully. Gives the hardest of blows, and ever ready with his pen and *Blade* to give the reason of the faith within him. His hostility to saloons is uncompromising. Ever ready and faithful helper in public enterprises and charities, we trust he may many years wield the "shining *Blade*" in the interest of Seward and her people.

WILLIAM D. BOWERS

Came from Maryland, in 1878, and was in the employ of Claudius Jones for two and one-half years, and since that time has been with McIntyre & Seeley. William is one of our most intelligent young men, and we trust that a bright future is before him, as he has been found entirely trustworthy and competent.

HIRAM L. BOYES

Was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, Jan. 9, 1812. Was from the Scotch-Irish and French descent. His father moved to Cattaraugus county, N. Y., when Hiram was but three years old. Was married in 1836 to Miss Esther L. Hibbard, of Erie county, N. Y. The young people made their way to the wilds of Michigan, and settled in St. Joseph county in 1844. Made the trip around Cape Horn to California in 1849, spending four years in the mines, and upon returning home removed to Story county, Iowa, and was among the first to penetrate the western wilderness. In 1867 came to Seward and built the mill, and from that time his interests have been identified with that of the city and county. Is still the principal owner of this most valuable property. The history of the mill enterprise is set forth in other pages of this work. Mr. Boyes has long been identified with the Seward schools as a prominent and efficient member of the board of education. Has for twenty years labored faithfully to build up Seward and Seward county. We could heartily wish the old gentleman and his noble wife many long years to enjoy the prosperity they have so well earned. His son Carlos is a partner and manager of the business. Carlos has grown from boyhood at Seward, and has been identified with the mill from the day its foundations were laid.

ABANES J. CALLENDER

Was born in Bucks county, Pa., May 1, 1842. His father's family moved to Marshall county, Ill., in 1854, and there the lad grew to manhood and received his education in the schools of that neighborhood. He came to Seward in the autumn of 1871, and for two years clerked in Tishue's dry goods store. Commenced the coal and stock trade in 1873, and has continued to do a thriving business in that line for fifteen years. Was married to Miss Phoebe M. Nichols, who was born and raised in Herkimer county, New York, near Utica, and who came to Nebraska in 1875. The marriage took place Sept. 6, 1877. There have been born to them four children, two of whom died while young, and Mary E. and Lloyd J., who

are with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Callender are members of the Missionary Baptist church and are among the useful members. Mr. C. has been city clerk, also city treasurer.

EDMUND C. CARNS

Was born in Butler county, Penn., in 1844; removed to Mercer county, Ill., in 1858; worked as a farmer boy until 1864, when he went to Minnesota; was a soldier from that state, where he was engaged afterwards in government and Indian transportation. After this he visited the Pacific coast. Made settlement in Seward in the spring of 1873, and engaged in the grain trade for several years, and afterwards was connected with the grain and coal trade at various points on the U. P. R. R. Was chosen member of the constitutional convention in 1875, and elected first state senator of Seward county in 1876, and was a very efficient member. Was very active in committee work. In 1878 was nominated unanimously and elected lieutenant governor of Nebraska, and unanimously nominated and re-elected in 1880. Was remarkably active as an officer, and made many warm friends and some bitter enemies. Very active and wonderfully energetic in whatever he found to do, he has done much for Seward county and Nebraska. Very genial and social in his nature, and a wonderful memory of names and faces, he perhaps has a more widely extended acquaintance than any other citizen of the county. Some may not like Carns, but with all the faults he may have we must accord him the credit of being an enterprising, honest business-man, and one who has done much to bring Seward county to the front. By his own push he worked his way into the front rank with the prominent men of the state as a politician and a business-man. Is now the owner of a large herd of cattle in Merrick county and a fine farm in Seward county. Always ready to give a helping hand in matters of public enterprise, and was never known to refuse in matters of charity. Is always ready to help a friend. Was happily married to Miss Margaret J. Burke, of Forestville, N. Y., in 1880, a noble lady, who is ever to the front in charitable enterprises in our city. They have a bright young family of three children—Margaret Elizabeth, Edmund Burke, and Rachel Florence.

JOHN CATTLE, SEN.,

President of the State Bank at Seward, is an Englishman by birth. Was born in Yorkshire, in March, 1817. Married Miss Alice Sarby, of same place, in 1846. There were born to them three sons and three daughters, only two of whom are now living. Came to Nebraska in 1876 and settled on section 4 in G precinct. One of the sons, Mr. Robert Cattle, died several years ago at the mountains, where he was sojourning on account of ill health. Mr. Cattle brought a large amount of wealth from the old country, and has made with his means large improvements on his farm and also in the city. Has built several brick business houses and a number of dwellings. Mr. Cattle is universally known to be a very lenient man with his customers. While he is considered very close in his dealings, he is never known to oppress any one who strives to do his part. He retains his relations with the Wesleyan church of England, but worships with the Methodist congregation, and renders liberal aid in supporting the church.

I. G. CHAPIN.

This young man came to Nebraska and located at Crete, in 1882, where he worked for a lumber firm for a year and a half, when he came to Seward and was with the firm of W. H. Walker & Co., where he proved so efficient that he has been promoted to the important trust of manager of seven yards of the great lumber firm of S. K. Martin & Co. He controls yards at Ulysses, Poston, Utica, "B," Waco, Tamora, and Beaver Crossing. Pretty well done for a young man.

FRANK P. COMPTON

Came to Nebraska with his parents when a young lad, in 1858. The family resided at Nebraska City until 1868 when they made their home in Lincoln, and moved to Seward in 1872. Frank learned the tinner's trade, and worked at the business a number of years, but not liking the business he learned the printer's trade and has for twelve years followed that trade. In 1885 owned and edited the *Staplehurst News*, and in 1887 removed the office to Utica, where the field was wider and is now editing the *Utica Sun*, a bright newsy paper. The writer of this sketch has known Mr. Compton since his early boyhood days and we take pleasure in saying that he is coming to the front in good shape. Is a young man of excellent habits and full of energy. We trust that a bright future is in store for him. He has largely received his education in the school of adversity, but has the will power to overcome every obstacle in the way, and we are heartily glad to see him succeed.

CAPT. ROBERT T. COOPER

Was born in Stephenson Co., Ill., in 1842, where he grew up to manhood. He enlisted at Freeport in 1861, in the 46th Ill. Infantry, in Co. B. In a short time was promoted to the second then to the first lieutenantcy, and in 1865 was promoted to the captaincy. Was discharged in 1866. The young man returned to his native home, where his county honored him twice with the office of county treasurer, in 1869 and 1871. Settled at Seward in 1874; built the Cooper and Henderson mills, south of Seward; helped organize Seward G. A. R. Post No. 3; was elected twice county treasurer of Seward county, in 1881 and 1883; was defeated for the county clerkship in 1885, but was triumphantly elected in 1887, over the same opponent. Is a republican in politics. A man of good parts, generous and obliging, wide-awake to public enterprise. The fall of 1887 brought him many favors, first he gained the favor of a splendid woman and was married to Miss Emma D. Brenizer on September 24th; next he was voted a gold headed cane for good looks, and later was voted the clerkship of the county. Pretty well done for one season.

THOMAS CORR

Was born in Washington Co., Ill., in 1844. Was a farmer boy. Enlisted in the 11th Ill. Infantry in 1861, in Co. C, on the first call. Re-enlisted in August following, in the 10th Missouri, and served three years. Being discharged at the end of his service, he returned and commenced a course of study in Washington Seminary, but in a short time he answered the last call and enlisted for the third time in the U. S. Vol. Veterans. Was promoted to second then to a first lieutenantcy for bravery and meritorious service. Was in Gen. Hancock's corps, and was one

of the guards that were detached to hang Mrs. Suratt, Payne, Herald, and Arroff, for their part in the assassination of Lincoln. At the close of the war he returned to Illinois, and in 1869 he made his home in Seward county, settling on his present farm in C precinct. Has had the honors of notary and justice of the peace for ten years. Was in 1884 elected to represent the county in the legislature, and was a wide-awake and energetic member, doing much valuable work for the county and state. Is one of the leading members of Seward Post No. 3, G. A. R., and was a charter member of Oliver lodge No. 38, of the A. F. and A. M. Was married in Illinois in 1868, to Miss Mary Adams. They have eight children, three boys and five girls. Mr. Corr is full of enterprise and push as a farmer and business-man, and a very worthy citizen.

WILLIAM WALLACE COX.

The subject of this sketch was born in Cattaraugus county, N. Y., November 12, 1832, and was named for the great Scottish chieftain. In 1835 he moved with his father and mother, Mordeci and Catharine Cox, to the then wilderness of Sangamon county, Illinois, where his father died a few months after, and the widowed mother soon moved and settled with the children near Monroe, in Green county, Wis., where she died May 8, 1838, being the first white woman buried in that county. Young William was given by his mother on her dying bed to the care of James Hawthorn, a wealthy and respected farmer of the neighborhood, with whom he lived until he was eleven years old, when becoming dissatisfied with Mrs. Hawthorn, he made his home for the next two years with relatives near Winslow, Stevenson county, Illinois. He then accompanied Samuel Phillips to Chautauqua county, N. Y., where for more than a year his life was that of a slave, when he found a splendid home with Elias Carrington, of Forestville. In 1848 he returned to Illinois, and the following year was a pupil of Hon. H. C. Burchard, at the opening of Monroe Seminary. Mr. B. was since member of congress from the Galena, Illinois, district, and afterwards superintendent of U. S. mint. Mr. Cox, in 1850, commenced teaching near Monroe. After two years resided at Belvidere, and taught in Boone county, Illinois, and afterwards in Mercer and Knox counties. Was a student in Oberlin College, Ohio, for a time; also at Knox College, at Galesburg, Illinois. In 1855 we find him as principal of public schools in Abingdon, Illinois. He was married in 1856 to Miss Rebecca Sampson, and the young couple moved to Page county, Iowa, a couple of years later, where they lived until the 28th day of February, 1860, when they moved to Nebraska City, and the year following to the Great Salt Basin, and to their homestead near Seward in 1864. When fifteen years old he united with the Missionary Baptist church, at Forestville, N. Y. To the happy union with a noble wife were born eight children, viz.: Kate J., now Mrs. James A. Ruby; Nettie M., now Mrs. Frank P. Pingree; Elmer E., Lincoln W., Omar L., Charles B., and Nora A., who are living, and Carrie, the youngest, died in infancy. Mr. Cox has been ever a consistent and ardent republican and an earnest advocate of the cause of temperance. He has ever been a friend to the best interests of Seward county and Nebraska, and has wielded his pen freely for their advancement. For many years he was engaged in the grain and implement business at Seward, but met with financial reverses in 1874, which swept away nearly all of his property. His family has seen all sides of pioneer life, its brightest sunshine and its darkest shadows. In hours of gloom

and general despondency, Mr. Cox was always cheerful and ready to encourage his neighbors to have faith in Nebraska. Never urged his claims for political preferment, but was always an earnest advocate of progress in all matters pertaining to his county and state. A man of generous impulses, and can never say no when an appeal is made to him in behalf of the needy.

JACOB H. CULVER

Was born in Mercer county, Ohio, in 1845. The family removed to Wisconsin when Jacob was but two years old. They settled in Sheboygan county, and his father engaged in the lumber business. The lad received his early training in the district school of the neighborhood. At the tender age of sixteen he enlisted as a drummer boy in Co. K. of the First Wis. Infantry, serving one year in that capacity, and at the battle of Perryville the color-bearer being killed, Jacob dropped the drum and grabbed up the flag and bore it aloft in triumph, and continued to carry it through the service. Was in the battles of Chaplain Hills, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and Chattanooga, and also in the Atlanta campaign. Returning from the war he entered the Wisconsin University in 1866. Was elected engrossing clerk of the Wisconsin senate in 1869. In 1870 he came to Seward county, and made Milford his home. Was postmaster at Milford in 1870, and in December of that year, in company with H. G. Parsons, commenced the publication of the *Blue Valley Record*, which was Milford's first and best paper. In the spring of 1873 the *Record* was consolidated with the *Daily Leader*, at Lincoln, which Culver and Parsons succeeded in bringing up to a paying business, when Mr. Culver sold his interest, returned to Milford in 1874, and bought an interest in the flouring mills with J. L. Davison. He continued with the mill until 1879, when the mill was sold to Johnson, Perry & Co. Mr. Culver was the organizer of Winslow Post No. 56, and was its first commander. Married Miss Ada Davison in 1870, and they are the happy parents of five children, viz.: Clarence C., Elvin E., Harry H., Fred D., and Lulu. His wife was raised from early childhood in Seward county. They were among the organizing members of the Congregational church of Milford. He is now vice president of the Morris lock factory, of Seward; is a stock farmer and also coal dealer at Milford. He is one of the most widely known of our citizens, and is the most untiring in his efforts to build up his town and county. His zeal knows no bounds. Milford owes very much to him for her prosperity, for by his bull dog determination the great mill was secured, and in no small degree he helped to secure the A. & N. railroad, and the Sanitarium owes its existence to him. Also the Industrial Home. Mr. Culver is a man of pronounced views on all questions of public importance, a strong republican in politics, and a radical temperance man. Is a man of fine social qualities, and has many friends and of course some bitter enemies.

HERSCHEL B. CUMMINS, M.D.,

Was born in Green county, Pa., in March, 1859. Lived in Washington county, West Va., six years during his boyhood. Moved with his father's family to Henderson county, Ill., where he attended school. Came to Seward county in May, 1874. Studied medicine for several years at Seward, then took a regular medical course in the University of Nebraska, graduating in the class of 1884 and 1885, with honors. Has practiced his profession in Seward with marked success since

finishing his course. We are glad to see one of our own Seward boys coming to the front and able to build up a good practice at his own home. Is now honored by the appointment as county physician.

W. R. DAVIS.

Was born in Yadkin county, North Carolina, Nov. 26, 1824. Was married to Miss Margaret A. Bohannon, of his native place, and to their union were born eight children, two of whom died in infancy; Rebecca, now Mrs. J. N. Beatty; Anuice, now deceased, the former wife of Mac Towner, of Ulysses; Mattie, now Mrs. Jasper Roberts; Abner Y., of Decatur county, Kansas; Major A. V., of Beaver Crossing, Neb; Josephine, now Mrs. A. C. Hull, of Hastings, Neb. The young couple moved with their family to Iowa, in the year 1852, going all the weary way with an ox team. In 1857 they settled in Cass county, Neb., being among the first settlers of the infant territory. He was elected to the third, fourth, and fifth sessions of the territorial legislature, appointed assistant assessor of internal revenue in the summer of 1862, and enlisted in the army in 1864. His wife died December 10, 1864, while he was in the army. He was discharged by his own request, under special order No. 155, April 17, 1865. He then returned home and was immediately appointed assistant assessor of internal revenue in the Plattsmouth district. When making one of his first trips across the plains, while performing his official duties, he made the acquaintance of the author of this book. He had lost his way and blundered on to Mr. Cox's cabin about 11 o'clock at night. To add to his comforts he had a lame horse and was nearly starved. In August, 1866, he married Miss Hannah C. Coleman. To them were born two children, Nellie R. and Frank R., who reside with their parents. In the summer of 1868 he and his son-in-law, J. N. Beatty, put in a general stock of goods at Seward, it being the first store in the new town and the second in the county. They continued in business under the firm name of Beatty & Davis most of the time until 1878. Mr. Davis is yet an active business-man, although near sixty-four years old. Has done much to build up Seward, always taking a leading part in all laudable business enterprises. The oldest merchant of our city, and may be fairly considered one of the best. His two younger sons are associated with him in business. He united with the M. E. church when young, and has through the years been one of the most earnest working members. Prominent as a temperance advocate, frequently speaking in public on temperance and kindred subjects with good effect. Mr. Davis has had an honorable part in the development and advancement of this county, using time, energy, and money freely in public enterprises and charities. We may fondly hope that Mr. Davis may live long to enjoy the fruits of his well-spent life, and enjoy the associations of the people he has worked so faithfully to benefit.

AMOS W. DONALDSON

Was born in Hocking county, Ohio, in 1828. Was raised on a farm at his native place. Moved to Indiana and remained two years, when he returned to Ohio and opened a store at Maysville. Had formed the acquaintance of Miss Sarah A. Dunaway, in Indiana, and in 1858 he went back and was married. Shortly after this the young couple moved to Missouri, where it was not healthy for northern people at the opening of the war, and they moved to Iowa, and there he enlisted in the 33d Iowa Infantry and served three years. Made their home in Seward

county in 1869, and settled at their present home. They have raised six sons, viz., Jared, William, Amos, Henderson, Oscar, and Arthur. Mr. Donaldson has been one of our most worthy citizens. He now has a good farm and a very pleasant home.

JOHN DUNBAUGH

Is the oldest man in Seward county, and was born in Lancaster county, Pa., Oct. 22, 1798. He claims to have been a playmate of James Buchanan. The old gentleman lives with his son Elijah, and seems quite robust. Somewhat deaf, but retains his eyesight reasonably well; can read coarse print. His descendants are becoming a great host, and are composed of four generations, having at least four great-great-grandchildren. Has resided at Seward since the summer of 1873.

MICHAEL DUNIGAN

Was born in Ireland, in 1836, and came to this country in 1853. Looked over several states, and finally located in Knox Co., Illinois, in 1856. In 1862 he enlisted in the 64th Illinois Infantry, in Company D, and served during the war, being at the front in all the sanguinary engagements of his regiment. In April, 1871, he located in the north-east portion of Seward county, and was among the first in that locality. He is a member of the A. F. and A. M., and is a charter member of Oliver Lodge No. 38. Has served three terms as county commissioner, and one term as supervisor from "B" town. Married Miss Mary E. Shumaker, in Illinois, in 1866. They have eight children. Mr. Dunigan is universally regarded as a thorough-going business man of more than ordinary ability. The fact that he, a democrat, was three times elected as commissioner in a strongly republican county, speaks well of the man. Mr. Dunigan is a successful farmer, and very enterprising and liberal in his dealings; loves his adopted home, but never forgets the wrongs of his native land. The new town of "B," on the F., E. & M. V. railroad, is situated on part of what was his farm, and to all appearances a bright future awaits him, and we rejoice that success crowns his honorable efforts to advance the interests of his county.

RODERICK E. DUNPHY

Was born in Lafayette county, in the territory of Wisconsin, in 1848. He learned the blacksmith trade in his native county, and remained there until 1872, when he went to Rockford, Ill. Returned to the old home and married Miss Elizabeth A. Gregory, in 1873. In 1879 the family moved to Seward, where Mr. Dunphy opened a wagon and carriage shop, and has conducted a successful and growing business to the present time. He has served four years as member of our city council, and was elected state senator from this county in 1882, and served with much credit. He is one of the few Wisconsin democrats, but not very radical—a very moderate one, indeed, we should say. As a business-man and citizen Mr. Dunphy is very popular. His wife died in December, 1886, and he is left alone to care for their two children—Miss Gabriel B. and Homer G. Mr. Dunphy is always ready to lend a helping hand in all public enterprises, and it is a pleasure to see such men prosper.

JOHN N. EDWARDS

Was born in Huntington county, Pa., January, 1847. Settled in Iowa while a young man, and enlisted in the 7th Iowa Cavalry and served three years. At the close of the war went to school and taught alternately, and thus acquired an education by his own exertions. Married Miss Nannie Kirkpatrick, the daughter of a pioneer Methodist minister of Iowa, in December, 1869, at Mount Pleasant. After his marriage he graduated in the Ohio Law School. The young people settled in Seward in 1873, where he practiced his profession, and afterwards opened the Bank of Seward County, Neb. Such success crowned his efforts that in 1887 he also opened a bank at Wray, Colorado. Mr. Edwards also is an extensive breeder of fine stock, in which business he takes great delight. He is one of the most active members of the G. A. R. of Nebraska, and has been honored by his comrades with many honorable and responsible positions. He has been in poor health for some years, yet his ambition is so great that he is considered one of the most active and energetic citizens. Is a man of extraordinary financial skill, and one of our most generous and charitable citizens. To him and his amiable wife have been born five children, two of whom are dead, one boy and one girl. Willie, Mattie, and Ralph still bless their home.

ELISHA L. ELLIS.

Was born in Henry county, Indiana, in 1834. Was raised a farmer boy. Came to Lancaster county, Nebraska, in 1858. Made choice of a claim (the farm near the iron bridge, owned by Mr. Castle) on the 25th of June, 1858, and entered the same in 1860, it being the first land entry in Seward county. He returned to Missouri in 1864, and married Miss Artemesia Harrison. Returned to Seward county with his young wife in the spring of 1866, and took a homestead (his present farm). We quote in another chapter sketches from his memorandum kept from 1858 to 1864 of scenes and incidents on this wild frontier. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis have raised four children, all girls, viz., Mary L., now Mrs. B. F. Hickman; Nancy E., now Mrs. J. I. Hickman (she was born here); Effie E. and Lilly E., both with their parents. Mr. Ellis has had quite an important part in the development of our county and city. He was ever watchful and earnest in all matters where Seward's interests were at stake. At one time he saved Seward from ruin by detecting a fraud in a railroad bond proposition, where it was designed to have the people of Seward sign her own death warrant, by leaving such a loop-hole as would permit the railroad to cross Blue river four or five miles south of the present city, and thus have ruined our city forever. He was ever ready to dare and do anything for Seward, and is entitled to much credit for the energy displayed. He is a kind neighbor and a good citizen, somewhat odd in his manners, but a good, whole-souled man for all that.

JAMES M. FLETCHER

Was born in Pendleton county, Kentucky, Oct. 14, 1838. His father was a farmer, and James had the ordinary duties of a farmer boy in that rough region of country, which may best be expressed in his own language, as rolling logs, grubbing, burning brush, and biting the heads off tobacco worms. Was married at nineteen to Miss Lidea Smalley. In 1859 the young people moved to Indiana, and settled in Fayette county, with two babes, Edward H. and Abey. Enlisted in

Co. H, 36th Ind. Vol., and served in the army of the Cumberland. Was in the awful struggle at Pittsburg Landing, and was paralyzed by the concussion of a bursting shell. Soon after the battle he was discharged on account of his disability. Has been a sufferer ever since, and for two years he was entirely helpless, many years ago. He displayed wonderful determination in his struggle to support his young family, tending one crop while on his crutches. He engaged in packing pork in the seventies, and the panic of 1873 swept his all from him. Struggling with disease and financial embarrassment for seven years, he turned his face toward Nebraska and settled at Seward in 1880, where he has been from that time the head of the firm of J. M. Fletcher & Co., butchers and dealers in meats. Four of their nine children died while young, three being buried in Indiana and one in Nebraska, and the five, viz., Edward H., Abey, Emma, William, and Della, all remain with the old folks, although all grown. Mr. Fletcher is a member of the M. E. church, and until his total disability was an enthusiastic worker in the Sabbath-school. Is a working member of Seward G. A. R. Post. Is an enthusiastic republican, and gives his political opponents some terrific blows. When able to get into the field he throws his whole soul into the political campaign. For two years past he has been helpless most of the time, and unable to lie down on his bed, but rests in a reclining chair. One strange feature of his case is, he cannot sleep. He never gets a good night's sleep. He remains cheerful and enjoys the society of friends and neighbors. Is peculiarly gifted with conversational powers, and is a very entertaining public speaker. Has a happy faculty of telling stories, with good effect, and can keep an audience in a roar of laughter. The business of the firm has been so well conducted that the old people are financially in comfortable circumstances, and have a pleasant home. His noble wife has been a sure staff upon which to lean in all the dark hours of his affliction. Ever faithful and watchful to him, she has always proved a tower of strength.

JEROME C. FORD

Was born at Algonquin, McHenry Co., Ill., in 1840. Enlisted in Co. H, Ill. Infantry, in 1861, just after his majority, and participated in the bloody battles of Pea Ridge, Perryville, and Stone River, where he was wounded and taken prisoner and enjoyed prison life awhile at Libby. Was paroled in February, 1863. Was then sent to Annapolis Hospital, where he received a furlough and was sent home. In 1864, returned to duty, and was in all the engagements of the Atlanta campaign until the 23d of June, when he received a second wound. In September 1864, his time expired. Was married Dec. 28, 1864, to Miss Clarinda Beebe, of his native place. To their union have been born Lydia M., now Mrs. E. C. Miller; Frederick S., Elmer E., and Harry E., all at home. Settled at Seward in 1874, where the family resided seven years. They now reside on a farm five miles north-east of the city, where they have a pleasant home. Mr. Ford was a charter member of Seward Post, and is highly respected by the brotherhood. His aged mother, now eighty-three years old, resides with him. She has been blind for thirty-three years. The old lady is in fair health and retains her faculties reasonably well.

JOHN F. GOEHNER

Was born in Germany, in 1850. Came to America in 1869, while yet a lad, and worked as clerk in a grocery store in St. Louis. Came to Nebraska in 1871, and clerked at Nebraska City until the summer of 1873, when he opened a small grocery store in Seward, and in 1875 commenced the grain trade. Made a success of his business, and in 1879 built the first Goehner block, on the corner of Seward and Seventh streets, and in 1884 built the fine block on the corner of Seward and Sixth streets, and placed an immense stock of hardware. The young German lad has grown to be a splendid business-man and displays unbounded energy and enterprise in building up the county and his adopted city. Is a leading member of the Lutheran church, has twice been honored as member of the city council, and once the county has honored him with a seat in our state senate. Is one of our most enterprising citizens, always in the lead in all matters that tend to build up Seward, and to his indomitable perseverance we owe the construction of the F., E. and M. V. railroad. Has lately been honored by having one of our bright towns named for him. Pretty well done for the German boy.

THOMAS GRAHAM

Came to Seward county in 1866, and settled on a homestead near Old Camden. Taught the first school at that place in the following winter. Was appointed school superintendent in 1869, and elected county clerk in the fall of 1869, which office he held continuously for five terms, or ten years. This may be considered rather remarkable, as he has been an unflinching democrat and this has always been a strongly republican county. Mr. Graham has been mayor of the city. Is a surveyor by trade, and was in the employ of the government at various times in surveying western lands. Was honored by a seat as state senator one term. We are pleased to quote in another place from his memorandum while in government service. Married Mrs. Denison. They have one son, Walter, now pursuing a course of study in the University of Nebraska.

REV. KARL THEODORE GRUBER

Was born A.D. 1832, in Saxony, Germany. His father was a minister of the gospel in Germany, and emigrated with a hundred and sixty souls of his and other congregations (on account of religious intolerance in the Fatherland), in 1839, and settled in ——— county, Missouri, where the subject of our sketch was raised. Was a student at Concordia college four years, and moved with it to St. Louis in 1849, and studied three more years. Was pastor of several congregations in Missouri and Illinois, then came to Nebraska in November, 1870, and had charge of several congregations of Lancaster, Seward, York, and Hamilton counties. Returned to Illinois in 1880, on account of poor health; in 1885 returned to Nebraska, and is now pastor of the congregation near Orton, in Seward county. Was ordained minister of the gospel, May 29, 1855. Was married October 21, 1856, to Miss A. M. Kipp. To their happy union were born ten children, of whom two are now dead. Mr. Gruber, or Father Gruber, as we all love to call him, is a man of wonderful perseverance, and is loved and honored not only by his own people, but by all of his acquaintances, and they are numbered by the thousands. As a spiritual teacher he has exercised a wonderful influence for good over the Ger-

man people of this whole county. He has the honor of founding more churches of his denomination probably than any other minister in Nebraska. We trust that he may yet live many years to labor for the Master and enjoy the society of his host of friends, and may his last days be his brightest and happiest, and he receive at last the welcome applaudit, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, come up higher."

WILLIAM C. HARTMAN

Was born of German parents, in Clayton county, Iowa, in 1857. His father's family moved to Seward county and settled on a homestead near Marysville, in 1866, and there William grew up and was married to Miss Nancy Kennison, in November, 1877. To this happy union were born four children, one of whom died in infancy. Three bright little ones, viz., Callie, Rosa, and Florence, remain to bless the home of their parents. Mr. Hartman has grown to manhood among us, and is a splendid type of our progressive citizens. Although reared in a pioneer settlement, with meager opportunities for mental culture, yet he is far above the ordinary in intelligence and possessed of superior business ability. A man of excellent morals, and full of enterprise, wide-awake with regard to all public enterprises, honorable in all his dealings, he has been very successful as a manager of his large business interests, and we confidently trust that his prosperity may increase with the years. The author of this sketch has known him since his early childhood, and the bright, energetic, and manly German boy has had a fast hold on our admiration through all these years.

JAMES A. HAZELWOOD

Came to Seward county with his parents (Rev. W. G. Hazelwood) in 1869, when he was but eleven years old. Worked on the farm until of age, and by industry and careful management is now at the head of one of the largest business interests in the south half of the county. Mr. Hazelwood is full of push and enterprise, and ranks among the foremost business-men of the county. Has just completed the largest and best livery barn in the county, a mammoth brick structure. He is also a dealer in farm machinery.

WILLIAM HICKMAN

Was born in Randolph county, Indiana, in March, 1831. Learned the carpenter's trade in his youth. Settled in Jasper county, Iowa, in 1851. After three years he laid aside his tools and engaged in farming. Came to Seward county in 1868, and was one among the first to settle in "B" precinct. Resided on the farm and improved it until the summer of 1887, when he moved to Seward and embarked in merchandising. Mr. Hickman was twice elected to represent his county in the legislature, was a member of several important committees, and was accounted one of the most valuable members. Is a stalwart republican. Was always considered as one of our leading farmers, and now is one of our leading business-men. Married Miss Louisa E. Moffit, in 1853, and they have children as follows: Charles F., Arlepha A., Eldora E., Barclay M., Alice E., and Elzena, who died in 1877. He is a member of the A. F. and A. M. Has by industry and careful management got one of our best improved farms.

LEVI HAFER.

Mr. Hafer was born in Northumberland county, Pa., in 1844, where he was raised on a farm. Married Miss Sarah L. Huffman, of his native place, in January, 1866. The young people came west to grow up with the country in 1868, and settled on a homestead, where they now reside (Walnut Grove Farm). They have raised seven children, all yet at home, viz., Martin A., Louis R., Irvin R., Ida M., John, Susie, and Charles. Mr. Hafer and wife helped organize the first U. B. church in the county, and they are yet among the most honored and useful members. While they are cheerful givers, they have been remarkably prosperous. He now owns four hundred acres of excellent land and has fine improvements. They have grown up with the county, sure enough. Mr. Hafer is among the honorable and worthy citizens.

ISAAC HOLT

Was born in Waterbury, Conn., in 1820, where he remained until his removal to South Bend, Ind., in 1869. He came to Seward in 1879. Has one son, Edward I., who is now in the West. Mr. Holt is one of our heaviest capitalists, and takes pride in giving generously to public enterprises and charities that meet his approval. Married his second wife in 1880, Mrs. M. McKinley. The old folks have a pleasant home. He commenced life for himself without a dollar, at twenty-one.

WILLIAM HORNBURG

Was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, January 4, 1829. Immigrated to America in 1856, and settled in Clayton county, Iowa. Came to Nebraska City in 1865, and to Seward county in 1867, took a homestead in "D" precinct, and was among the first to locate on upper Lincoln creek. His aged parents came with him, and had a home with him while they lived. The old gentleman died ten years ago, and the old lady four years ago. Mr. Hornburg remained a bachelor until about ten years ago, when he married Mrs. Dora Hornburg, the widow of his brother Henry, who was drowned in 1877 in Lincoln creek. Mr. Hornburg has no children of his own, but has been a kind father to the four children of his brother. He helped organize the Lutheran church at Marysville, was one of its principal officers, and remains one of its most worthy members. Was elected a county commissioner in 1870, and had quite an important part in the county seat struggles. Was always a firm friend of Seward. He owns a valuable farm, and is pleasantly situated. A very genial and companionable man, worthy of the esteem of all.

WILLIAM IMLAY

Was born in Pennsylvania, in 1830. Removed with his father's family to Ohio at an early age, and some years afterwards to Indiana, where he became acquainted with Miss Mary Donaldson, to whom he was married in 1853. In 1856 the young people moved to Harrison county, Iowa, in 1858 to Cass county, Neb., and in 1863 to Salt Basin, Nebraska. In 1864, early in the spring, he settled on his homestead (the present home). Was in the fall of 1864 elected to represent Seward and Lancaster and a vast area of unorganized territory to the westward in the territorial legislature. Had a prominent place on several important committees, and was considered a valuable member. In 1865, at our organization, he was

elected a county commissioner, which office he held three terms, and took a leading part in all matters pertaining to our development and advancement. Because of his energy and will power as an officer, he was frequently spoken of as the county commissioners of Seward county. In later years Mr. Imlay has taken but little part in county affairs, but has thrown all his energy into the improvement of his farm. He united with the Presbyterian church when young, was one of the founders of their church at Seward, and remains one of its most worthy and useful members. Mr. and Mrs. Imlay, during the early years, underwent many of the privations incident to pioneer settlements, but they have come off more than victorious. They have a nice comfortable home, have raised a large and intelligent family of children, and the old people are highly respected and honored by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. We honor them for their sterling qualities as citizens, as good neighbors, and as earnest laborers in laying the foundations of Nebraska.

REV. E. W. JOHNSON

Was born in Fulton county, Ill., Oct. 8, 1838. Was raised a farmer boy. While young was in poor health, and for some time it was thought that he would not live to become a man. His school privileges were meagre. His father was killed by accident when the lad was but twelve. At fourteen he resided with his grandparents at Lewiston. At eighteen commenced teaching in his native county, and until he was twenty-six he taught and went to school alternately, at the Lewiston Seminary. His health failing, he was compelled to abandon teaching. Married Miss Jane Street, in October, 1861. Shortly after their marriage they were both converted, under the pastorate of Rev. J. V. B. Flock, of the U. B. church, at Johnson school-house in Fulton county. He soon became impressed with the idea that it was his duty to preach the gospel. Was licensed in August, 1864. His health was so very poor that a change of climate was a necessity, and in 1866, May 13th, the family settled in Seward county. For six years his health was so poor that he could do but little preaching. He organized the first U. B. class at the residence of C. J. Neihardt. Commenced his regular work in the ministry in 1872 and 1873. Organized several churches in the county in the years 1874 and 1875. Conducted some revivals, in which a hundred or more were converted, and seventy-five were organized into classes. Was elected presiding elder in 1875, and was appointed to the south-east district of Nebraska. His labors were very successful, and during that year over four hundred were added to the church. Was re-elected in 1876, and sent to Fairmont district. This embraced Polk, York, Seward, Saline, Jefferson, Fillmore, and part of Hamilton counties. Overcome with labors, he rested during 1877, but was in the pulpit nearly every Sabbath. Was again elected elder in 1878, and sent to Omaha district, but was compelled to resign on account of ill health, but did service on West Blue circuit in York county. His labors were blessed, witnessing fifty conversions, and under his leadership Bethel church was erected. In 1879 was assigned to Lincoln creek circuit, and labored in Seward county and this year organized Seward church. In 1880 was appointed to Seward circuit, and that year their church was built and witnessed a revival. Was again elected presiding elder in 1881, and was assigned to Omaha district, but was unfortunately compelled again to resign. In 1882 was sent to Crete circuit, and labored with success, witnessing forty conversions.

Remained in charge of Crete circuit during 1883. In 1884 was again elected presiding elder, and sent to Plattsmouth district, where he remained in that honored position until the present. Was elected for fifteen consecutive years as corresponding secretary of the conference. Mr. Johnson has now regained his health and is quite rugged. His life has been thus far a very useful one in spreading the gospel in this new land.

CLAUDIUS JONES.

This gentleman was born in the state of New York, migrated to the West in his early manhood, and had for many years a chequered life. Was at one time a member of the Chicago board of trade. His career is a marvel, his financial success wonderful. His character is unlike that of the most of mankind—that is, he is a man of strong likes and dislikes, never known to forget or forsake his friends, nor is he forgetful of his enemies. He has the warmest of friends and some bitter enemies. He came to Seward during the summer of 1873, and opened the State Bank, the first bank in the county. One peculiarity of the State Bank, it always had plenty of money provided the security of the borrower suited Mr. Jones. He is a man of remarkably quick perceptions, and of business ability equal to the best. Naturally generous, making large donations to charitable purposes and such public enterprises as meet his approval. A man who cannot be irritated by hot words; personal abuse affects him no more than pouring water on a duck's back affects the duck. Mr. Jones has become independently rich among us, and is our heaviest capitalist, being the president of the Jones National Bank at Seward. Is also our largest farmer. His farms consist of over six thousand acres of land, and he is also our largest stock raiser and fine stock breeder. He has a great admiration for fine stock, and spends many pleasant hours among his herds of Short-horns and Holsteins. He has raised a bright and intelligent family of young people. Upon the whole we are satisfied that Seward county is the better and richer for his coming.

JOHN M. LANGDON

Was born in Janesville, Rock Co., Wis., in 1853, and came with his father's family to Salt Basin, Nebraska, in 1862, when he was less than nine years old. The lad grew up to manhood in this new country, where it has been our pleasure to be intimately acquainted with him all these years, and it is with pleasure we write of the boy who has grown up in the wilderness under the many adverse circumstances, with limited opportunities for an education, yet by dint of his own will has grown up to be an intelligent business-man. John moved with the family to Seward county in 1872, when they settled in "A" precinct, in what was known as the Oak Grove settlement, where he remained until he was grown. Came to Seward in 1882, purchased a home and took care of his aged mother while she lived, and provided her with a pleasant home. Was married to Miss Lucy Manning in 1885, an estimable young lady of Seward. Mr. Langdon has been some years extensively engaged in supplying the people of Seward with fruit trees, in which business he has justly earned an honorable reputation as a trustworthy citizen and gentleman. Mr. Langdon is a highly respected member of the Presbyterian church of Seward. We can heartily wish the young man many years of prosperity and usefulness.

ALEXANDER D. LANGE

Was born at Bloomington, Ill., in 1855. Came to Seward in 1880. Married Miss Louisa Kimel in 1882. They have one bright little son, Phillip C. Mr. Lange commenced the grocery trade in 1886, and is fast gaining a reputation as a valuable and worthy business-man.

HON. WM. LEESE

Came to Seward many years ago, a young man without money or family prestige, and commenced at the bottom round of the ladder to climb. With indomitable energy he determined to amount to something in life. With poverty and many attendant discouragements staring him in the face, he commenced the study of law. Many, not knowing of the mettle of the young man, could not see anything but failure in his designs. He struggled with adverse circumstances through years of preparation for the high duties of his exalted profession, and the resulting achievements have been grandly successful. Occupying the exalted position for the second term of attorney general of our state, and performing heroic work in behalf of the people, he stands to-day the central figure in Nebraska. All eyes are fixed upon him, and he is fast acquiring a national reputation. All because he has been faithful to duty and full to the maximum of determined energy. Mr. Leese was born at Athens, Tenn. Married Miss Margaret L. Wilson, at Palmyra, Neb. Came to Nebraska May 11, 1868. They have four children, all yet at home, Effie, Ray, Clara, and Leo.

LOUIS J. LEGER,

Born in France, Department of L'Eure, Canton of Comfort, Parish of Apperville, the 11th of July, 1818. Was raised a farmer boy until about sixteen, when he learned a trade, making weaver's reeds. Took a regular course of study in the normal schools of Paris, after which he became a teacher and was principal of the Gospel Society's school at St. Denis, near Paris, where he was in charge twenty-four years. Was secretary of the Protestant Institute of Paris nine years, and was associated with many of the leading men of France during the reign of Napoleon 3d. Was professor four years of photogenic association. For his effective work received three silver medals. He also received one bronze medal for his efficient work in the deaf and dumb asylum. He left Paris the year before the Franco Prussian war, and came to this country in 1869. Made his settlement in Seward county in 1873, and took a homestead in "I" precinct. Mr. Leger has a family of twelve children, seven boys and five girls. Mr. Leger is a very intelligent gentleman, being thoroughly versed in all European affairs, and familiar with French history especially.

GEORGE W. LOWLEY

Was born in Leeds, England, March 5, 1842. His parents came to this country when George was very young, and settled in Pennsylvania, but soon changed their residence to Indiana, in 1854. Commenced the study of law while in his teens, but was quick to hear his country's call to arms, and enlisted in the 11th Ind. Vol. Was with the brave boys at the capture of Ft. Donaldson, and was there wounded and upon receiving his discharge he returned to his law study. However, just before enlisting he edited and published the Tipton *Republican* awhile. Soon after returning home from the war he was admitted to practice in all the courts of

Indiana, and the curious can find his name frequently in the reports of the supreme court of that state. Mr. Lowley came to Nebraska in 1870, and settled in Lincoln. Made his home at Seward in 1871, where he tried life on a homestead for awhile, but it not agreeing with him he opened a law office in Seward, and practiced in all the courts of Nebraska. Was elected probate judge in 1881, and held the office three consecutive terms with much credit. It has been universally conceded that he was one of the most efficient probate judges of our state. He has now returned to take his place in the front rank among the able barristers of Nebraska. Mr. Lowley is an enthusiastic republican. Was married to Miss M. W. Long in 1867, and they have seven children, viz., Joseph S., May M., Stephen, John L., Millie, Earl, and George W. Mrs. Lowley has been an invalid many years, but she bears her suffering with patience.

HON. EDMUND MCINTYRE

Is thoroughly known to have the courage of his convictions. He is full of energy and enterprise. Whatever his hand finds to do he just goes at it with all his might. It matters not whether friend or foe opposes. While it is often our duty (as we see it) to bitterly oppose many of his public acts, yet we must admire the proud spirit that knows no such word as fail in his undertakings. Has filled the office of mayor of our city five terms, and has for many years been one of the most active officers of the state agricultural society and once its president. We cannot be mistaken when we say that among the foremost of our state he has acted well his part in bringing his county and city to the front. Full of enthusiasm in all public enterprises, wide-awake as a citizen and business-man. With all the faults we may think we see we could not afford to spare him from our city or county. He has through all the years of his long residence been one of Nebraska's best builders.

GEO. A. MERRIAM

Came to Nebraska in 1868, when a boy in his teens, and resided with his parents at Milford, where he worked in his father's store (the second store in Milford) summers, and taught school winters. In 1876 he settled in Seward, clerked for several years, and in 1884 was elected district clerk; was re-elected in 1887, and makes an excellent clerk. Has grown to manhood in our county, and we are glad to see him come to the front. He is full of energy, and is universally considered one of the best clerks in this judicial district. Was married to Miss S. F. Martin, in 1874, and they now have two bright children. His aged father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Merriam, reside at Milford.

REV. WESSON G. MILLER, D.D.,

At this time presiding elder of the Lincoln district of the M. E. church, was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., in 1822. His literary education was received at Gallupville, in his native state. Taught school five years, then moved west, and settled at Waupun, Wisconsin, and engaged in lumbering. Entered the ministry in 1845. Was ordained deacon by Bishop Waugh, in Chicago, in 1847, and in 1849, was ordained elder at Platteville, Wis. Labored in the Wisconsin Conference thirty-five years. Was stationed seventeen years in Milwaukee. Was transferred to Nebraska in 1879, and served two years as presiding elder in the Omaha district. Was then appointed presiding elder of York district. He purchased a farm near

Utica, where he built a home known as Sunnyside. Was made Doctor of Divinity by Lawrence University, in Wisconsin. Is the author of several valuable books and pamphlets, such as "Thirty Years in the Itinerancy," "Milwaukee Methodism," "Temperance Cyclone," and the "Giant Wrong," etc. Married Miss Mary E. Bowman in 1847. To them were born three children, viz., Mary E., now Mrs. Capt. F. P. Lawrence, late of Wisconsin; Laura E., the late Mrs. Jesse Smith, late of Fond du Lac, Wis.; Mrs. Smith died at Utica in November, 1879; and Wesson G., Jr., who lives with the old folks. The reverend father has had a long and varied experience in his Master's work. He stands in the church among the most honorable and worthy of its faithful servants. We trust that his declining days may be bright and happy, and we are sure that when his Lord calls, he will be fully ready and prepared to render a good account of his stewardship.

JAMES MOORHEAD

Was born in Stark Co., Ohio, Oct. 21, 1830. His father's family moved to Hancock Co., Ohio, in 1835, where James remained until 1859, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Sarpy county. The following year he went to Colorado, and engaged in mining for two years. In 1862 he went back to Ohio, and enlisted August 14th, in Co. G, 99th Ohio Vol. Infantry. Was in the battles of Perryville, Chickamauga, and Lookout Mountain. Was at Washington on duty when Early's raid occurred, and waited thirty-six hours for his dinner, but was busy all the time sending compliments (leadens) to the enemy. Was a member of Lincoln's body guard for a time. Discharged in July, 1865, when he made ready and in the spring of 1866 returned to Nebraska, settling near Omaha, and moved to Seward county in 1870, where he has led the peaceable and quiet life of a farmer. Was married to Miss Sarah Campbell, of Wood Co., Ohio, Jan. 20, 1870. They have raised two children, Elizabeth L. and William H., both yet at home. Mr. and Mrs. Moorhead helped to organize the Presbyterian church of Seward, and remain among the useful and honorable members. Mr. M. has been quite successful, and the family are now pleasantly situated and are enjoying a good degree of prosperity.

REV. GEORGE M. MOREY

Has been all his active life in the ministry of the M. E. church. His father was born in Maine, and his mother in New York, and himself was born in Union Co., Ohio, July 25, 1835. His father moved to Fulton county, Ill., when our lad was two years old, and he had all the usual experiences of a frontier life. In 1858 he entered the ministry, in which calling he has devoted the best energies of his life. Married Sept. 1, 1858, to Miss Louisa E. Wright, of Avon, Ill., who was born in Ohio, in 1837. They have raised five children, viz., Eva, Osman B., Byron J., Lydia B., and Grace E., all yet with their parents at home. They have four dead. On Oct. 1, 1883, he was transferred from the Central Illinois Conference to the Nebraska Conference, and stationed at Seward for three years, where his labors were very successful and acceptable to the church and people. Mr. Morey owns a farm three miles north-east of the city, where he resides, and with the sons he conducts the farm. Is interested in fine stock, and makes the Red Polled Angus cattle his specialty. Mr. Morey was an earnest republican, casting his first vote in 1856 for John C. Fremont. Has all his life been very active in all reformatory work. Was very earnest

in his opposition to human bondage, and in favor of human liberty. Was a Union man with all his heart during the war. Ever an earnest advocate of temperance, and ever in deadly opposition to the liquor traffic, in 1880 he became convinced that men should vote as they pray, so he joined the prohibition party, and now stands thoroughly committed to the cause of temperance, as he was to the breaking of the bondsmen's shackles in the time of the rebellion.

FRANCIS MORTON

Was born in Vermilion county, Ill., in 1833. His parents moved to Green county, Wisconsin, when Frank was but ten years old. Here he became a playmate of the author of this book. Was raised a farmer boy until he was seventeen years old, when he was taken violently with the gold fever, and in company with many of the neighbors made an overland trip to California, where he remained three years. Saved and brought home some money. Married Miss Drucilla Divan in 1854. Lived in the old neighborhood until their removal to Seward county in 1872, when they settled on a homestead about five miles south-east of Seward. Mr. and Mrs. Morton helped organize the Seventh Day Advent church at Seward. Mr. Morton enlisted in Company D, Wis. Vol., and served until wounded at Cedar Mountain. Was in Banks' famous retreat from Winchester, and had several close calls. Is now a member of Seward post. To Mr. and Mrs. Morton were born ten children, nine now living, as follows: Lucinda, now Mrs. A. Skillman, of Seward; Catherine, now Mrs. Alex Hackworth; Mary, now Mrs. John Hand, of Seward; Urias, now of Wray, Col.; Francis, Jr., of Ruby, Neb.; Thomas, of Wray; Ada, now Mrs. M. Boyes, of Wray; and Charles and Ira, of Ruby.

ISAAC D. NEIHARDT

Was born in Williams county, Ohio, January 5, 1837. His parents moved to St. Joseph county, Ind., when the lad was seven years old. His mother died when he was ten years old, and Isaac had to shift for himself. When eighteen he returned to Ohio and taught school a year, after which he made his home at South Bend, Ind., where he studied law with Judge Liston. Was admitted to the bar at LaPorte, Ind., in 1860. Next we find the young man over in Illinois, where he enlisted August 9, 1862, in Co. F, 76th Ill. Inf., where he served as sergeant till November, 1863, when he was promoted to the lieutenantcy, and in January, 1865, he was commissioned captain. Was in the battles of Hatchie Run, Black River Bridge, Champion Hill, Raymond, at the siege of Vicksburg in both charges. Was wounded at Cross Bayou, La., Aug. 5 1864. Was mustered out of service in April, 1866. Made his home in Arkansas until his removal to Nebraska in 1871. Was quite prominent in the political struggles in Arkansas, and came within one vote of being elected to congress at one time. Mr. Neihardt was twice elected sheriff of Seward county, and has served eight years as justice of the peace in "G" precinct, and is now serving his second term as police judge. Was married to Miss Kate Rogers, at Essex, Indiana, Jan. 3, 1858. They have raised three children, Schuyler C., died in Seward; Mary C., now Mrs. J. A. Divan, of Ruby; Emma A., one of our accomplished young teachers.

RICHARD S. NORVAL

Was born in 1849, in Fulton county, Illinois. His early boyhood was spent on the farm of his father. Received his early education in the log school-house of the pioneer days of Fulton county, but while in his teens pursued a regular course of study at Hedding College, at Abingdon, Knox county, but did not graduate. Taught several terms of school in the old neighborhood. Took a regular course with his older brother (Judge Norval) in the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and graduated in the same class with honors. In 1871, in company with his brother, he settled at Seward, and opened a law office, where success has crowned his efforts in a marked degree. In less than sixteen years he has risen from the humble beginning of a student to the front rank among the legal lights of Nebraska. Mr. Norval was married in the fall of 1873, to Miss Martha A. Gray, of Knox county, Illinois, and to their union have been born eight children, three of whom died while young. The five are with their parents, viz., Eva M., Oliver Gray, Ethel, Cloyd, and Leona.

HON. T. L. NORVAL, JUDGE OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT,

Was born in Fulton county, Illinois, in 1847, August 26th. He attended the public schools and worked on his father's farm until he was seventeen years old, when he commenced a course of study at Hedding College, at Abingdon. At twenty he commenced teaching, spending all leisure moments studying Blackstone and Kent. Visited Nebraska in 1869, and being so well pleased with the country he determined to make it his future home. In the fall of 1869 he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he graduated with honors in March, 1871, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and was admitted to practice in the supreme court of Michigan, a few days afterward. He returned to his old home and taught a year to earn money to get a library, and in the spring of 1872 he located at Seward, and engaged in the practice of his profession with his younger brother, Richard S. Married Miss Ella Godfrey, Feb. 5, 1875. They have two little girls, viz., Winnie, born Feb. 16 1878, and Merle, born May 10, 1883. Mr. Norval has been engaged in many very important trials, such as the Midland bond injunction, the Lincoln & N. W. R. R. bond injunction, the Jones tax case, the Clough murder, the Cassler murder, the Patrick murder, and many others. As a lawyer he has been very successful. He is a republican in politics. Has been honored with many offices, viz., city clerk, councilman, mayor, was state senator in 1879, and was appointed in the spring of 1883 by Gov. Dawes to succeed Judge Post as judge of the 6th judicial district of Nebraska. In the following fall he was nominated by acclamation, by the republican convention at Aurora, for the same office, and was elected by a large majority over Hon. M. A. Mills, having in Seward county alone near 1,000 majority. Was again elected in 1887, by increased majorities, getting every vote in Seward county, and all but three in Polk county. Mr. Norval has proved a success wherever tried, as a teacher, as a lawyer, a senator, and a judge, and in a marked degree enjoys the confidence and esteem of the whole people.

REV. C. E. PHINNEY

Was one of our pioneer ministers, who settled at an early day in the western part of the county. He went to work bravely and earnestly in his "Master's vine-

yard," and reared the standard of the cross. Would face winter storms and endure poverty and fatigue to better the condition of the people and bring them up to a higher standard in morality and religious life, and the community owes him its grateful remembrance for the good work done in their behalf. He has justly earned the high esteem with which his church and the people hold him. Long may he live to enjoy the society of friends and neighbors, and at the last receive the welcome embrace of the Savior he has served so well.

REV. JOSEPH H. PRESSON

Was born in Warren Co., Ohio, in 1840. His father was a Methodist preacher. The family moved to Rushville, Ills., in 1846. The lad's life was void of special incidents, other than that of preachers' boys in general. Just as he became of age the war broke out, and he enlisted in 1861, and was in the famous 15th Army Corps under Gen. Sherman, participating in all its marches and in many of its conflicts until after the capture of Atlanta. Was in the following battles: Shiloh, Shelby Depot, Chickasaw Bayon, Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, May 19th and May 22, 1863, the siege ending July 4, 1863, Jackson, Miss., Amsterdam Ford, Mission Ridge, Kenesaw, and Atlanta. Was mustered out of the service at Chattanooga, Oct. 30, 1864, and within sixty days he had found his way to the territory of Nebraska, and settled at Tecumseh. Here he resided six years. Was twice elected county clerk, and served four years. He had the honor of nailing on the first lath that ever was placed upon the wall in Johnson county. He was converted and became a member of the M. E. church in 1866, and was the same year licensed to preach. Joined the Nebraska Conference in 1871, and was appointed junior preacher under Rev. A. L. Folden, at Tecumseh. Was afterwards sent to Plattsmouth, to Omaha 18th street church, to Nebraska City, and Pawnee City, and then, by special request of the official board, to his old home at Tecumseh. While at this charge his health failed, and he was compelled to engage in secular business for five years, but retaining his membership in the Conference. Returned to the work of the ministry in 1886, and was sent to Seward, where he has labored with great success and to the entire satisfaction of the church and the people to the present time. He is a man of marked ability as a public speaker, and scarcely ever fails to have a large and appreciative audience. His intelligence takes in a wide range, and he is unusually apt in his illustrations. At times, when he becomes warmed up, his eloquence holds his audience spell-bound. Is a member of Seward G. A. R. post, and takes a warm interest in its work. Is enterprising, always interested in the advancement of every good work of the city or county. Is an every-day worker in the vineyard, foremost to lead all charities, very affable and genial in all his intercourse with the people. Was married to Miss Maggie Huff in 1866. They have three sons. His amiable and intelligent wife is a great help to him in his ministerial work.

JOHN ROBERTS, SEN.

Was born Nov. 29, 1813, in Henry Co., Kentucky. His father was from the old Virginia stock that moved to South Carolina and thence to Kentucky when it was a wilderness. John was raised a farmer boy in that new region, where school opportunities were meager, and his early education was limited. The family moved to Fulton Co., Ill., in 1835, and again pitched their tent in the wilds of that new

land among the first settlers. John here married Miss Susan Hall, daughter of John and Prudence Hall. She was born April 30, 1818, in Franklin Co., Ill., where her parents had settled in the territory of Illinois some years before. Susan was born just before Illinois was admitted as a state to the Union, 1818. The young people made themselves a farm and resided in Fulton county until their removal to Seward county in 1866. All their ten children were born at their Fulton county home, viz., Lucy Jane, now Mrs. John Durland; John N., of Seward; Mary, the former wife of Richard Sampson, now deceased; Susan, now Mrs. J. C. Sampson, of Seward; Prudence, now Mrs. J. M. Palmer, of Ulysses, Neb.; Jasper, now deceased; James T.; Marion, now of Elbert Co., Col.; Laura I., now Mrs. A. M. Hickman, of Seward, and Douglas H., of Elbert, Col. The old people have a great number of grandchildren who are now grown, and quite a number of great-grandchildren. Mr. Roberts erected the first frame building on the site of Seward, which is spoken of elsewhere in these pages. He has had quite an important part in the building of our city. In 1871 he platted the south half of the homestead into lots, as part of the Harris, Moffit, and Roberts' addition. Has built three substantial brick business houses. He was quite fortunate in his selections of lands when he first came here and they have made him a handsome fortune. He had a prominent part in the struggles of the pioneer days, when everything was so unhandy. He hauled lumber with teams from Nebraska City for his first building. The old people now have a comfortable and beautiful home, just by the splendid city they helped to build.

JOHN N. ROBERTS,

Son of John Roberts, Sen., was born in Fulton Co., Ill., in 1838. Married Miss Margaret A. Shreves, who was born in Bedford Co., Pa., and with her parents settled in Fulton county while she was a child. Their wedding occurred August 6, 1863. The young couple moved to Seward county in the spring of 1865, and settled on a homestead (their present farm). There have been born to them eight children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are: Samuel O., Cora A., now Mrs. Peter Sampson (she is one of the few born in this neighborhood that are married); Maggie L., Lillie V., Julian R., and John F. Mr. Roberts may fairly be counted among our most prosperous farmers. Has an excellent farm, finely improved, and he is very prosperous.

FRANK G. SIMMONS

Was born in the city of New York, on May 31, 1854. His parents were people of good family, though in moderate circumstances, his father being of a Massachusetts family, while his mother traced her descent to the early Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam. At an early age his mother died, but her place was taken by her sister, who took care of the children so devotedly that they never felt the loss of their mother. The boy began to go to school at four years of age, and was a constant attendant until twelve years old. At that time the death of his father compelled him to seek his own living, and he went to work in a book-binding establishment in New York. He remained there but a short time, and in 1867 went to Illinois, where he worked on a farm for about eight years, going to school as he was able to during the fall and winter seasons. In 1874 he came to Nebraska, and located at Seward, and has resided here ever since. For about three years he

taught school, and then went into the printing business, going into the office of the *Nebraska Reporter*. After learning the printer's trade he worked in the office for several years, and finally, in 1882, bought the paper, which he still owns. In the spring of 1887 Mr. Simmons was appointed steward of the Nebraska Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth, located at Beatrice, and is now devoting his time mainly to that business, though he still continues to edit his paper. He was married Jan. 1, 1879, to Miss Anna W. Boughton, and they have four children, viz., Ruby M., Iva E., Arthur L., and Beulah. Mr. Simmons is a growing man. He was but a mere boy when he came to Nebraska, and with no help but his own determination he has steadily advanced step by step until he is among the best known editors of our state. We predict a bright future for him.

THOMAS SKILLMAN,

The first settler in F precinct, was born in New Jersey on Nov. 1, 1843. His widowed mother moved to Fulton county, Ill., in 1851, where Thomas was a resident until the spring of 1865. Married Miss America Johnson in December, 1864. The young couple moved to Seward county the following spring, and Mr. Skillman made his claim (the present farm) on Lincoln creek, and was for a time our most western settler. These young people had many hardships to endure, as they were just beginning life and had but little means, but by perseverance and energy they have succeeded in making for themselves a pleasant home and are now quite independent. They have only one child (a son), Jerry T., now past twenty-one, and is one of the few grown men that were born in this settlement.

GEN. JAMES M. TRUE

Was born in Scott county, Kentucky, Oct. 14, 1823. Moved with his parents to Coles county, Ill., in 1834, and there grew up to manhood, living and working on a farm. In 1852 commenced the mercantile business in Charleston, Ill. This business he followed until he enlisted as a private at the opening of the war, in Co. E, 38th Ill. Infantry Vol., and was elected captain of the company. Was mustered into the service at Springfield, Aug. 2, 1861. His command operated in south-east Missouri. December 1, 1861, Gov. Yates, of Illinois, sent him a commission as colonel of the 62d Ill. Infantry Vol., for meritorious service. He at once joined his regiment and took command. The regiment was mustered into service April 10, 1862, by Capt. John Watson, of the regular army. Served this regiment until March 5, 1865, when President Lincoln sent his name to the senate for Brigadier General of volunteers, and on the 18th of April, President Johnson signed his commission and forwarded it to him in the extreme southern part of Arkansas, where he was in command of a section of country, having a brigade and division command most of the time for two years previous. His operations were in the western army under its different commanders, much of the time with and near General Grant. In the sanguinary engagements, marches, and counter-marches of the bloody campaigns of the noble western army, our subject had a very important part, and acted it well. Was a brave soldier, and a good general, and had the respect and love of all the boys under his command. At the close of the war he returned to his former business in Mattoon, Ill. Within the first year he was elected to the legislature from the district composed of Coles, Edgar, Vermilion, and Douglas, by two thousand majority. This was the 25th general assembly of

Illinois. He served in the first, second, and third sessions. He declined a nomination. February 10, 1874, Gen. Grant appointed him U. S. Consul to Kingston, Canada. In March of that year he reached his consulate, and filled the responsible duties of that office until April, 1878. In 1883 he became a citizen of our county, and has been engaged in stock feeding. He devotes his spare time to the ministry, having been ordained by the Predestinarian Baptist church soon after his return from Canada, in 1878. We believe Mr. True is our only citizen who earned the title of general by actual service in the field. While he is comparatively a new citizen of our county, he has done so much for his country that he is fully entitled to recognition in these pages as one worthy of all praise.

PHILLIP UNITT

Is one of our leading stockmen. Came to Nebraska a young man without means, and by enterprise and good judgment ranks as among the foremost stock men of Nebraska. Owns one of the finest barns in this country, and handles hogs and cattle by the thousand. He is an Englishman by birth—the fattest and jolliest Englishman of whom we know.

REV. J. N. WEBB,

The veteran preacher of Seward county, and probably of our state, was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., in 1811. Commenced preaching in 1832, fifty-six years ago, and has been in active work of the ministry ever since. In 1834 was settled as pastor of the church at Smithville, where he labored five years; was pastor for six years at Carthage; was twenty years at work in the St. Lawrence Association, then three years at Titusville, Pa., when he came to Nebraska in the interest of home missions, and in that work he traversed Nebraska through and through for nine years, at all times of year and in all kinds of weather. Whether in the scorching sun of mid-summer or the chilling blasts of winter blizzards, he was ever about his Master's work, visiting and encouraging feeble churches and rendering them aid and encouragement, and gathering the scattered membership together and establishing churches. When he was baptized his pocket-book was baptized with him, and his life and all that he possessed was consecrated to the Master's use, and while his financial talent has been most remarkable for a minister, he has distributed it among the poor. Has from his own purse scattered in the mission work ten thousand dollars in Nebraska alone. Since 1879 he has labored for feeble churches and the educational interests of his people. Shall we state to what denomination Elder Webb belongs? Perhaps so, but it is more important to know that his long and valuable life has been wholly given to preaching the everlasting Gospel of Christ to the people, and while the Missionary Baptist church is his home, yet his field of usefulness was the world, and his work has been wonderfully blessed. He is yet in the harness, and is a tower of strength, holding aloft the Standard of the Cross among the people. He first visited Seward in 1869, and this has been a part of his field of labor since that date, and he has made Seward his home for the last two years having been pastor of Seward church.

DR. JAMES H. WOODWARD

Settled at Milford, Neb., in 1871, and was one of the first physicians in the county. In 1873 he removed to Seward, where he has enjoyed a successful practice ever since. Was a native of Indiana, born January, 1835. Married in 1861 to Miss Emma

Glifford. Graduated at Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College in the class of 1866. Had been through the St. Louis medical schools. Delivered a series of lectures before the St. Louis Medical College from 1875 to 1877. Has delivered many lectures before the Seward school of medicine and surgery. Is a member of the E. M. Society of Nebraska, and an ex-president of that honorable body. Also a member of the National E. M. Society. Is also a member of the K. of H., and is their examining surgeon at Seward. Has delivered a series of lectures before the school of medicine of the State University. Is author of a work on "Electro-Therapeutics." Is the owner of the famous electric belt.

HENRY WORTENDYKE

Was born April 6, 1828, in Ontario county, New York. When he was a young lad his parents moved to Genesee county, N. Y. In 1851, while yet a young man, he came West, and settled in Chicago. Was first employed by the government in locating and surveying a national road in Minnesota territory from St. Paul to Crow Wing. Also from St. Paul to Stillwater. After this service he returned to Chicago, and was engaged in a mercantile house for several years. Next we find him at Dixon, selling goods for two years. Came to Cass county in 1857, and worked, improving a farm near Weeping Water, for three years. In 1860 he took the gold fever and went to the mountains, where he sought and found some gold. Returned to Nebraska in 1866, and has made his home in Seward county since that time. He helped build the first mill at Milford. Was elected probate judge in 1868. Married Mrs. Emily J. Badgley in 1867, a young widow lady who had the grit to come to Nebraska and get a homestead. To the happy union were born three children, the oldest, Henry J., died when fifteen years of age; Diantha, now a young lady of sixteen years, and John O., eleven years old. Mr. Wortendyke has been quite successful as a farmer and business-man, is at present one of our most wealthy citizens, and is quite enterprising. At an early day he helped improve the West's mill property. A man of generous impulses, and gives much to public enterprises and charities. Is a strong republican in politics, an earnest temperance man, and withal a highly respected citizen. Mr. Wortendyke and wife are among the honored members of the M. E. church of Milford. It has been the privilege and pleasure of the writer to enjoy the intimate acquaintance of Mr. Wortendyke and family for over twenty years, and we have always appreciated their sterling qualities as citizens and neighbors. We can truly wish them long, happy, and useful lives.

CALVIN J. WRIGHT

Came to Nebraska in 1879, and settled in "B" precinct, where he owns a large stock farm. He is largely interested in cattle and hogs, and may be fairly counted among our most enterprising farmers. One thing that speaks volumes for the man is this, he is an uncompromising democrat, and while his county is strongly republican, he was elected in the fall of 1886 by a handsome majority to represent the county in the state senate, in opposition to a man of sterling qualities. Was born in 1831, in Portage county, Ohio. Was a merchant for a time, then a photographer. In 1861 he moved to Marshall county, Ind., where he was engaged in the services of the government as a detective officer. Was married to

Miss Elizabeth Church, in Madison county, Iowa. Is a member of the A. F. and A. M. in good standing. Is thoroughly awake in all matters of public enterprise. While we may widely differ with him in many respects with regard to public matters, we can see in him sterling qualities as a business-man, legislator, and citizen.

JOHN ZIMMERER

Came to Seward in 1873, a mere boy in the employ of the firm of Bishoff and Zimmerer. The latter gentleman was an older brother of our friend. Some time afterward John was admitted to a partnership with the firm. His business ability developed rapidly, and in a short time he was placed in full charge of their large and ever expanding business. John proved faithful to every trust, and not many years had elapsed until he was accounted one of the leading business-men of Seward. His business ability and his remarkable success is almost a prodigy. Before ten years had passed he became sole proprietor of the immense hardware business, and is now owner of the finest business block in the city and is among the foremost of the business-men of Central Nebraska. He is a German by birth, wide-awake and progressive, very liberal in all public enterprises and charities. Has a leading part in every enterprise that tends to build up his county and his city. We could heartily wish for hundreds more just like him. Herein lies the secret of his success: Twenty years ago he commenced work in a hardware store at \$5 per month and board and clothes. The first year he saved and sent his father \$50, money he had borrowed to pay his way to America. Young men, please learn a lesson from his example.

CHAPTER XV.

LIST OF STATE OFFICERS, U. S. SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS, AND
U. S. MARSHALS FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TERRITORY UP TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

We append the following lists taken from the State Legislative Manual of 1887, by permission:

GOVERNORS.

Francis Burt, appointed Oct. 16, 1854. Dem.
Mark W. Izard, appointed Feb. 20, 1855. Dem.
Wm. A. Richardson, appointed Jan. 12, 1858. Dem.
Sam. W. Black, appointed May 2, 1858. Dem.
Alvin Saunders, appointed May 15, 1861. Rep.
David Butler, elected, took seat Feb. 21, 1867. Rep.
Robert W. Furnas, elected, took seat Jan. 13, 1873. Rep.
Silas Garber, elected, took seat Jan. 11, 1875. Rep.
Albinus Nance, elected, took seat Jan. 9, 1879. Rep.
James W. Dawes, elected, took seat Jan. 4, 1883. Rep.
John M. Thayer, elected, took seat Jan. 6, 1887. Rep.

The elected governors were elected at the fall elections previous to their inauguration, the dates of which are indicated above.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS.

Othman A. Abbot, Jan. 4, 1877. Rep.
Edmund C. Carns, Jan. 9, 1879. Rep.
A. W. Agee, Jan. 4, 1883. Rep.
H. H. Shedd, Jan. 8, 1885. Rep.

SECRETARIES.

Thomas B. Cuming, appointed Aug. 13, 1854. Dem.
John B. Motley, appointed March 23, 1858. Dem.
J. Sterling Morton, appointed July 12, 1858. Dem.
A. S. Paddock, appointed May 6, 1861. Rep.

T. P. Kennard, elected, took seat Feb. 21, 1867. Rep.
W. H. James, elected, took seat Jan. 10, 1871. Rep.
John J. Gosper, elected, took seat Jan. 13, 1873. Rep.
Bruno Tzschuck, elected, took seat Jan. 11, 1875. Rep.
S. J. Alexander, elected, took seat Jan. 9, 1879. Rep.
E. P. Roggen, elected, took seat Jan. 4, 1883. Rep.
Gilbert L. Laws, elected, took seat Jan. 6, 1887. Rep.

AUDITORS.

Chas. B. Smith, appointed March 16, 1855. Dem.
Samuel L. Campbell, appointed Aug. 3, 1857. Dem.
Wm. E. Moore, appointed June 1, 1858. Dem.
Robert C. Jordan, appointed Aug. 2, 1858. Dem.
Wm. E. Harvey, appointed Oct. 8, 1861. Rep.
John Gillespie, appointed Oct. 10, 1865. Rep.
John Gillespie, elected at organization of state government. Rep.
Jefferson B. Weston, elected Jan. 13, 1873. Rep.
F. W. Liedtkie, elected Jan. 9, 1879. Rep.
John Walliehs, appointed to fill vacancy, Nov. 12, 1880. Rep.
John Walliehs, elected Nov., 1881. Rep.
H. A. Babcock, elected, inaugurated Jan. 8, 1885. Rep.
H. A. Babcock, re-elected Nov. 8, 1887. Rep.

TREASURERS.

R. P. Rankin, appointed March 16, 1855. Dem.
Wm. W. Wyman, appointed Nov. 6, 1855. Dem.
Augustus Kountze, appointed Oct. 8, 1861. Rep.
Augustus Kountze, elected state 1867. Rep.
James Sweet, elected, inaugurated June 11, 1869. Rep.
Henry A. Koenig, elected, inaugurated Jan. 10, 1871. Rep.
J. C. McBride, elected, inaugurated Jan. 11, 1875. Rep.
Geo. M. Bartlett, elected, inaugurated Jan. 9, 1879. Rep.
Phelps D. Sturdevant, elected, inaugurated Jan. 4, 1883. Dem.
Chas. H. Willard, elected, inaugurated Jan. 8, 1885. Rep.
Chas. H. Willard, re-elected 1887. Rep.

LIBRARIANS.

James S. Izard, appointed March 16, 1855. Dem.
H. C. Anderson, appointed Nov. 6, 1855. Dem.
John H. Kellom, appointed Aug. 3, 1857. Dem.

Alonzo D. Luce, appointed Nov. 7, 1859. Dem.
Robert S. Knox, appointed 1861. Rep.
T. P. Kennard, appointed June 22, 1867. Rep.
Wm. H. Jones, appointed Jan. 10, 1871. Rep.
Guy A. Brown, appointed March 3, 1871. Rep.

ATTORNEY GENERALS.

Champion S. Chase, elected 1867. Rep.
Seth Robinson, elected 1869. Rep.
Geo. H. Roberts, inaugurated Jan 10, 1871. Rep.
J. R. Webster, inaugurated Jan. 13, 1873. Rep.
Geo. H. Roberts, inaugurated Jan. 11, 1875. Rep.
C. J. Dilworth, inaugurated Jan. 9, 1879. Rep.
Isaac Powers, Jr., inaugurated Jan. 4, 1883. Rep.
Wm. Leese, inaugurated Jan. 8, 1885. Rep.
Wm. Leese, re-elected 1887. Rep.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Seth W. Beals, elected 1869. Rep.
J. M. McKenzie, elected, inaugurated Jan. 10, 1871. Rep.
S. R. Thompson, elected, inaugurated Jan. 4, 1877. Rep.
W. W. W. Jones, elected, inaugurated Jan. 6, 1881. Rep.
Geo. B. Lane, elected, inaugurated Jan. 6, 1887. Rep.

COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS.

F. M. Davis, elected, inaugurated Jan. 4, 1877. Rep.
A. G. Kendall, elected, inaugurated Jan. 6, 1881. Rep.
Joseph Scott, elected, inaugurated Jan. 8, 1885. Rep.
Joseph Scott, re-elected 1887. Rep.

JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT.

CHIEF JUSTICES.

Fenner Ferguson, appointed Oct. 12, 1854. Dem.
Aug. Hall, appointed March 15, 1858. Dem.
Wm. Pitt Kellogg, appointed May 27, 1861. Rep.
Wm. Pitt Kellogg, re-appointed May 8, 1865. Rep.
Wm. A. Little, appointed 1866. Dem.
O. P. Mason, appointed 1866. Rep.
O. P. Mason, elected 1867. Rep.
Geo. B. Lake, elected, inaugurated Jan. 16, 1873. Rep.

Daniel Gantt, elected, inaugurated Jan. 3, 1878.* Rep.
 Samuel Maxwell, elected, inaugurated May 29, 1878.
 Geo. B. Lake, elected, inaugurated Jan. 5, 1882. Rep.
 Amasa Cobb, elected, inaugurated Jan. 3, 1884. Rep.
 Samuel Maxwell, elected, inaugurated Jan. 4, 1886. Rep.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES AND JUDGES.

Ed. R. Harden, appointed Dec. 4, 1854. Dem.
 James Bradley, appointed Oct. 25, 1854. Dem.
 Sam M. Black, appointed, date not given.
 Eleazer Wakeley, appointed April 27, 1857. Dem.
 Joseph Miller, appointed April 9, 1859. Dem.
 Wm. F. Lockwood, appointed May 16, 1861. Rep.
 Elmer S. Dundy appointed June 22, 1863. Rep.
 Geo. B. Lake elected, inaugurated Feb. 21, 1867. Rep.
 Lorenzo Crounse, elected, inaugurated Feb. 21, 1867. Rep.
 Daniel Gantt, elected, inaugurated Jan. 16, 1873. Rep.
 Samuel Maxwell, elected, inaugurated Jan. 16, 1873. Rep.
 Amasa Cobb, elected, inaugurated May 29, 1878. Rep.
 Amasa Cobb, elected, inaugurated 1882. Rep.
 M. B. Reese, elected, inaugurated Jan. 3, 1884. Rep.
 Samuel Maxwell, elected 1887. Rep.

CLERKS OF SUPREME COURT.

H. C. Anderson, appointed 1856.
 Chas. L. Salisbury, appointed 1858.
 E. B. Chandler, appointed 1859.
 John H. Kellom, appointed 1861.
 Wm. Kellogg, Jr., appointed 1865.
 Geo. Armstrong, appointed 1867.
 Guy A. Brown, appointed 1868.

REPORTERS SUPREME COURT.

J. M. Woolworth, appointed 1870.
 Lorenzo Crounse, appointed 1873.
 Guy A. Brown, appointed 1875.

U. S. MARSHALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA.

Mark W. Izard, appointed Oct. 28, 1854. Dem.

*Died in office.

Eli R. Doyle, appointed April 7, 1855. Dem.
Ben. P. Rankin, appointed March 29, 1856. Dem.
P. W. Hitchcock, appointed Sept. 19, 1861. Rep.
Casper E. Yost, appointed April 1, 1869. Rep.
J. T. Hoile, July 1, 1861. Rep.
Wm. Dailey, 1870. Rep.
Ellis Bierbower, 1885. Rep.

TERRITORIAL DELEGATES TO CONGRESS.

Napoleon B. Gidding, elected Dec. 12, 1854. Dem.
Bird B. Chapman, elected Nov. 6, 1855. Dem.
Fenner Furgnson, elected Aug. 3, 1857. Dem.
Experience Esterbrook, Oct. 11, 1859. Dem.
Samuel G. Daily, Oct. 9, 1860. Rep.
Samuel G. Daily, re-elected Oct. 1862. Rep.
Phineas W. Hitchcock, elected Oct. 11, 1864. Rep.
John Taffe, elected Oct. 9, 1866. Rep.

REPRESENTATIVES TO CONGRESS.

Lorenzo Crounse, Oct. 8, 1872. Rep.
Frank Welch, Nov. 7, 1876. Rep.
Thos. J. Majors, Nov. 5, 1878. Rep.
E. K. Valentine, Nov. 5, 1878. Rep.
A. J. Weaver, March 7, 1883. Rep.
James Laird (re-elected 1884 and 1886), first took his seat March 7, 1883. Rep.
G. W. Dorsey (re-elected 1886), March 5, 1885. Rep.
John A. McShane, elected Nov., 1886, March 5, 1887. Dem.

U. S. SENATORS.

John M. Thayer, 1867 to '73.
T. W. Tipton, 1867 to '75.
P. W. Hitchcock, 1871 to '77.
Algernon S. Paddock, 1875 to '81.
Alvin Saunders, 1877 to '83.
C. H. VanWyck, 1881 to '87.
Chas. F. Manderson, 1883 to '89.
A. S. Paddock, 1887 to '93.

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